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Warsaw Pact Information Group Meets in Warsaw

LD022150 Warsaw PAP in English
1918 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 2—Another session of the multilateral group of mutual current information, made up of representatives of the states-parties to the Warsaw Treaty, was held here March 1-2.

Participants in the session exchanged information and views on some current international problems, particularly those concerning security and cooperation in Europe. Poland's foreign vice-minister and general secretary of the Political Consultative Committee of the states-parties to the Warsaw Treaty Henryk Jaroszek met participants in the session.

Humanitarian Issues Viewed at Vienna Meeting

LD012322 Budapest MTI in English
2016 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Vienna, March 1 (MTI)—At the full meeting of the follow-up conference in Vienna the coordinator of the humanitarian questions—the member of the Swedish delegation—submitted the working document which in the form of a package provides opportunity for the acceleration of the discussion related to questions of the third basket. The speakers of the Tuesday session expressed acknowledgement to the Swedish diplomat for his efforts and many contributors positively evaluated the document. The representative of the Hungarian delegation has emphasized that the package is the first step in this field and that other steps should follow suit. Attention should be paid to such proposals related to the third basket which at present could not be included in the coordination document due to lack of agreement. This document—if approved—would stimulate the work in other fields of the follow-up meeting—said the Hungarian speaker.

He expressed regret that the document failed to include the proposal on minor European languages and their associated cultural values. According to the Hungarian point of view this should be counted among the questions to be later discussed. He, however, pointed out that the Hungarian delegation sees no reason to refuse the working document but on the contrary the major task of the meeting is to reach a positive decision.

Second Day of Balkan Conference Examined

AU012011 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 26 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Aleksandar Prlja, Borivoj Erdeljin and Radislav Cuk report on the second day of the Balkan Conference in Belgrade: "Ministerial Meeting Every Or Every Second Year?"]

[Text] On the second day of the Belgrade conference ministers held talks behind closed doors. The exclusiveness was so great that—contrary to custom at similar international meetings—the door was not even opened for the usual 1 minute for television. According to the original work plan, the ministers held a 3 and 1/2 hours meeting behind closed doors. The favorable atmosphere at this meeting was also felt in the businesslike efficiency with which the talks of the Balkan countries' ministers were conducted in Belgrade.

According to a remark made by one of the participants, this was a rare occasion that such an important international meeting accomplished in 1 and 1/2 hours what would normally require at least 3 hours. According to what we have learned, political matters dominated the meeting, together with the desire to deepen and improve political understanding and make the continuation of cooperation easier. It could be already regarded as certain that a decision to hold periodic meetings of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers in all the capital cities in alphabetical order will be adopted and announced today.

The draft of the joint communique was prepared by the host country in accordance with the old diplomatic practice. But Yugoslavia is just one of the participants in this meeting. The text of the final communique could only be the result of an agreement by all the participants.

Today's meeting will be ended by a plenum that the press will be allowed to attend. Meanwhile, toward the end of the second day, the meeting was mainly conducted through bilateral contacts. Talks were held on the principle "everybody to everybody." Many people are of the opinion that this was in fact the key part of the meeting that has been directed toward the ultimate aim; smoothing the inherant disputes in the current interrelations.

At yesterday's closed session, the ministers used the opportunity to more clearly express ideas and specific approaches in their individual speeches. But, as we have learned from well-informed sources, all six ministers tried "not to touch on problems." As a member of the Yugoslav delegation put it, "they all tried not to affect the pace of the meeting and tried to contribute to the preservation of the established Balkan spirit through flexibility." Although the session passed quickly considering the abundance of topics raised—only half of the time indicated in the official program was used—the host, the federal secretary for foreign affairs presented very substantive common views reached by the foreign ministers of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey, and Yugoslavia that were used as the outline for the final communique. Yesterday, all the ministers took the floor, the Albanian minister even twice, before, as we learned, Budimir Loncar could conclude before the end of the session that the "spirit of goodwill and good neighborliness has been confirmed and that all the countries expressed the wish for cooperation and readiness to put everything said and proposed on real and attainable grounds."

The wish of all the participants is that the Belgrade meeting does not remain a sole action of the foreign ministers and that today's statement confirms that the six foreign ministers' will continue to meet every or every second year. The conclusion on this kind of institutionalization of meetings in the Balkans is a generally accepted formula today.

However, the circles close to the Albanian delegation say that Tirana agrees with such regular meetings in principle, but that the next meeting should be convened only after concrete results of this meeting are seen and when the agenda for the next meeting is established.

It has been learned that the Greek proposal is that the ministers should meet every year and that the second meeting of the foreign ministers should be held in 1989 so that the ministers could, as the sources from the Greek delegation say, "see what has been achieved," which would then make the convocation of other ministerial conferences with a special agenda easier.

Dozens of Concrete Proposals [subhead]

Although until the beginning of the meeting it was thought that priority will be given to the investigation of areas for economic cooperation, it was learned yesterday that all the participants happily spoke about political matters just as they did in their introductory speeches. They demonstrated readiness to respect different positions and organizations of the Balkan countries emphasizing in particular the full respect for integrity, sovereignty, equality, the inviolability of borders, and non-interference in internal affairs, and saw this as the basis for good cooperation.

Budimir Loncar was able to sum up dozens of concrete proposals for multilateral contacts in the Balkans. These referred to: trade, transportation, industrial cooperation, financial cooperation, tourism, power generation, science and technology, agriculture and irrigation, telecommunications, ecology, culture and arts, information exchange, sport, and cooperation among nongovernmental organizations.

Also noteworthy was the idea of convening a meeting of experts who would put together all these proposals and later present them as a complete program, but it already

looks that ministers for economic affairs (Turkish proposal) and ministers for transportation (Yugoslav proposal) will meet before that.

It has been learned that at yesterday's closed session Budimir Loncar also summed up several political initiatives. The most dominant initiatives were those concerning the creation of a zone of peace and security in the Balkans, a zone without nuclear and chemical weapons, without the presence of foreign military bases, and the simultaneous reduction of conventional arms in this region.

According to the source close to other delegations, not everybody spoke about this, and even when this topic was broached, this was not done in the same way.

It was also learned that the idea of a summit of the heads of the Balkan countries was proposed and that even the date should be set. As sources from several delegations confirmed, the Romanians were particularly keen on the summit, suggesting that this proposal be formally marked as the aim of the Belgrade conference, or at least that "prospects are opened" for this proposal. Some ministers did not speak about the meeting of the heads of states. It looks as if they were waiting to see whether conditions for this exist. There were also other ideas which will served as a source of inspiration for the future work.

The meaning of "Humanitarian Cooperation" [subhead]

In summing up common elements, Budimir Loncar singled out—during the talks on the mechanism of continuity—the idea that top-ranking foreign ministry officials discuss their proposals and present their recommendations at the next meeting of foreign ministers.

As we have learned, in his exhaustive wrap-up the Yugoslav federal secretary underlined Karolos Papoulias' proposal that all six countries' ministries for foreign affairs appoint special officials who would deal with cooperation in the Balkans.

During the discussion on what has often been called, particularly by ministers, "humanitarian cooperation," which in fact refers to the question of minorities, the ministers stressed the importance of this issue for further cooperation.

On the first day of the meeting particular attention to this topic was paid by the Turkish, Albanian, and Yugoslav foreign ministers. It has been learned that at the closed session held yesterday the ministers treated the question of minorities in all countries in the same way, as "bridges of cooperation and rapprochement," generally pointing out the importance of "freer movement of people and ideas."

Special Accents [subhead]

In addition to the Yugoslav foreign secretary's wrap-up, according to what we were able to learn from sources close to other delegations, during yesterday's meeting some foreign ministers emphasized their own special points. Bulgarian Minister Petur Mladenov again paid particular attention to the zone of peace and cooperation, free of nuclear and chemical weapons. He also stressed the idea about the need to work on an agreement on tactical weapons recalling in that context the declaration of Todor Zhivkov and Andreas Papandreou. Ioan Totu added to this issue the question of removing foreign bases and troops from the Balkans.

It has been learned that Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov expressed support for the Albanian view on cooperation in the humanitarian area. Among other things he particularly favored a meeting of ecology experts in Sofia.

Karolos Papoulias yesterday insisted among other things on setting up an institute for Balkan economic cooperation in Athens. He also called for a quick agreement on the Balkans as a chemical weapons free zone since these weapons do not exist in the region.

It has been learned that Albanian Minister Reis Malile said that everything that had been said should be regarded as recommendations rather then decisions.

Why Were the Greek and the Turk Late [subhead]

All of yesterday—from the morning until the evening—passed through meetings between different delegations.

Karolos Papoulias and Mesut Yilmaz were 1/2 hour late. This was seemingly not very diplomatic. The four ministers who arrived in the meeting hall at exactly 1000—the time when the session was scheduled to start—did not, however, hold it against the Turk and the Greek. It was only Velibor Dulovic from the Protocol Office who was anxious and who walked nervously through the corridor connecting the Sava Center with the Intercontinental Hotel where Papoulias and Yilmaz held a "Davos like" meeting, now already in the best "Balkan spirit."

Hurrying to the hall after this Greek-Turkish morning ministerial conference, Karolos Papoulias told us the following: "We talked for 45 minutes in the warm atmosphere of friendship discussing the procedural questions of the meeting of the joint Political Committee set up in Davos. The meeting is to be held in Athens on 30 and 31 May. We also talked about prospects for Balkan cooperation, as well as about the forthcoming meeting of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal during the NATO summit in Brussels on 2 and 3 March. Finally, we also decided that the two of us, Yilmaz and I, should meet again in Brussels before the opening of the NATO summit in order to discuss issues pertaining to disarmament."

More Bilateral Meetings [subhead]

After the memorandum signed between Bulgaria and Turkey on Monday night about which Mesut Yilmaz said at his first meeting with Budimir Loncar that Ankara "preserved it for Belgrade as a symbolic contribution to the meeting," the delegations have been simply competing in holding bilateral meetings.

Our federal secretary yesterday talked with Papoulias, Yilmaz, and Malile, and by the end of the conference will discuss all significant issues of bilateral cooperation with other ministers too.

Ioan Totu and Reis Malile, Albanian and Romanian foreign ministers, met yesterday morning. It has been learned that they devoted the most attention to bilateral relations.

The meeting of Turkish and Albanian delegations, according to representatives of the two countries, passed marked with attempts on the further advancement of political, economic, cultural, and other cooperation. The Turkish side stresses in particular that "there have been no problems and open questions between Ankara and Tirana for a great number of years, which is a prerequisite for new meetings at the high level, which are becoming more and more frequent."

AWP Paper Comments on Balkan Conference

AU021513 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 28 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial: In the Interest of Good-Neighborliness and Cooperation in the Balkans"]

[Text] The joint communique of the meeting of the foreign ministers of six Balkan countries, which was held in Belgrade on 24-26 February, was published yesterday in our press. This, the first meeting of the foreign ministers of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Turkey, is an event of special importance to the peoples of this region.

This meeting, the problems that were discussed there, and the broad exchange of opinions on numerous questions of a common or bilateral nature, constitute a real contribution in improving the political climate in the region and serve to reduce tension and to create conditions for the development of cooperation in all those areas in which the interests of the Balkan countries coincide.

The meeting reflected the readiness of the Balkan governments for a fruitful dialog, with the intention of transforming the region into a zone of peace and cooperation. The foreign press, both Balkan and European, rightly put the stress on the fact that the foreign ministers of the six countries came to the meeting with the good intention of achieving success. The constructive stand and the sense of responsibility shown there for the common destiny of the region, induces one to hope that a valuable effort has started in the direction of improving relations between the Balkan states, on a regional as well as on a bilateral plane.

As is stated in the joint communique, the foreign ministers agreed on a number of concrete measures, whose implementation will serve to improve the political atmosphere in the region and will further promote cooperation among the Balkan countries. Particular stress is placed on the measures that can be adopted in the field of economic cooperation in which there exist not only common interests, but also the possibilities for implementation. Conditions do exist for mutually profitable cooperation in the fields of trade, transportation, tourism, and finances; for exchanges of experience in the fields of industrial technology, agriculture, the utilization of water resources, and telecommunications; in protecting the environment; as well as for cooperation in the fields of health, sports, and information. The Balkan countries have numerous possibilities to increase cultural and scientific cooperation, because there are rich and ancient traditions in these fields. The cultures of the Balkan peoples have always given to and taken from each other, have enriched each other, and have helped the peoples to understand each other. The joint communique provides concrete ideas to further promote the process of improving the political atmosphere in the Balkans and stipulates measures to implement them in practice. The meeting agreed in principle that meetings of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries be held periodically. The need for regular meetings between high officials of the ministries of foreign affairs was also stressed. The ministers recommended that meetings of the economic, foreign trade, and communications ministers be held, as well as meetings between government experts in the field of environmental protection, and that an institute should be created to study economic cooperation in the Balkans.

The ministers also recommended that contacts be encouraged between people in all walks of life and between social personalities in various fields.

The problems of the Belkans are numerous and acute-.They are both inherited from history and contemporary. No one expects them to be resolved at one meeting, or even several meetings. We are realistic about this. That is why we consider the meeting achieved as much as possible at the present time and in the conditions. An important positive stride was made. Its importance will become obvious in the future, depending on the concrete actions that will follow it and on the concretization of the ideas and suggestions contained in the joint communique. This will also indicate what else must be done in the field of future meetings and consultations, on a general as well as on a bilateral basis.

As was stressed in Comrade Reiz Malile's speech, Socialist Albania has supported and will continue to give priority support to all concrete steps contributing toward the improvement of relations with the neighboring countries and of the general situation in the Balkans. Albania will support all steps and initiatives serving the cause of peace, stability, and security in the region and beyond.

We are conscious of the fact that the destabilization of any of the Balkan countries is also to the detriment of other countries and of peace in general. That is why, as has been constantly stressed in official documents and in the practical activity of our state, Albania has done and will continue to do its utmost to ensure that an atmosphere of good-neighborliness and sincere cooperation may always prevail on our peninsula. The elimination of the presence of the superpowers in the Balkans through NATO and the Warsaw Pact would contribute to this, as well as the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the region. The further that the superpowers are kept away from the Balkans, the better it will be for its peoples and for peace in general. Expressing ourselves in favor of understanding and cooperation between the Balkan countries, we are not saying at all that our region be transformed into an oasis closed to Europe and the world. On the contrary, peace and calm in the Balkans serve peace and security in general. This presumes normal cooperation and relations with all those countries that are ready to respect the well-known principles of cooperation between the peoples.

Strict respect of national and democratic rights, and the economic and cultural emancipation of minorities, also helps to strengthen cooperation and friendly relations in the Balkans to a considerable extent. It is our opinion that it must be the common intention of all Balkan governments to ensure that the minorities serve as a factor of cohesion and stability within the country and a bridge of cooperation with neighboring countries, instead of being a factor of division, tension, and divergence. This was reflected clearly in the speech delivered by the leader of the Albanian delegation at the meeting of foreign ministers.

In conformity with its consistent policy of good-neighborliness and of preserving general peace, defined by the party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, Albania adopted a constructive, open, and principled stand at this, the first meeting of the foreign ministers of the six Balkan countries, which was appreciated by the participants themselves, as well as by the foreign press.

In the message of greetings addressed to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries, Comrade Ramiz Alia stressed: "The new socialist Albania has been and continues to be particularly in favor of peace and understanding between the peoples in the Balkans, in favor of stability and a spirit of cooperation. Albania considers the policy of good-neighborliness to be a constant direction in its relations with all the Balkan countries."

Our country will progress on this road with determination. Albania has always been and continues to be convinced that, given political will and a sincere desire for cooperation, and if the obligations of being a neighbor are correctly appreciated, ways can be found, leading to overcoming difficulties and obstacles. This is our profound belief. The Albanian people greet the positive results of this meeting and wishes that it may be followed by other concrete steps, to the benefit of cooperation and understanding between the peoples of the Balkans.

Greek Economic Delegation Arrives 2 Mar

AU021959 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] A Greek Government delegation led by Ioannis Papantoniou, first deputy minister of national economy of the Republic of Greece, has arrived in Albania to participate in the first session of the mixed Albanian-Greek Commission For Economic, Industrial, Technological, and Scientific Cooperation.

The delegation was welcomed at Rinas Airport by Gani Qemo, deputy chairman of the State Planning Commission; Izedin Hajdini, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate chief, and others. Spiridhon Dhokianos, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Greece in Albania, was also present.

The proceedings of the first session of the mixed Albanian-Greek Commission for Economic, Industrial, Technological, and Scientific Cooperation began today. The delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania at this session is led by Gani Qemo, deputy chairman of the State Planning Commission; while the Greek delegation is led by Ioannis Papantoniou, first deputy minister of the national economy.

Ismail Ahmeti Appointed Construction Minister

AU031024 Tirana ZERI I RINISE in Albanian 27 Feb 88 p 1

[ATA report—"Government Appointments"]

[Text] On the proposal of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania has decided, by Decree No. 7201 dated 18 February 1988, to appoint Farudin Hoxha to the post of minister to the Presidium of the Council of Ministers, and Ismail Ahmeti to the post of minister of construction.

AWP Central Committee Plenum Meets 1-2 March

AU021716 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1700 GMT 2 Mar 88

["Communique on the Fifth AWP Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] The fifth AWP Central Committee plenum met on 1-2 March 1988 under the chairmanship of Comrade Ramiz Alia, AWP Central Committee first secretary.

Comrade Foto Cami, AWP Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, delivered the Politburo's report entitled: For an All-Round Progress of Socialist Culture and Its Increased Role In Every Aspect of the Country's Life. A broad discussion took place in the plenum on this problem. Its proceedings were attended by workers in the propaganda, art, culture, and science sectors.

At the conclusion of the plenum, Comrade Ramiz Alia, AWP Central Committee first secretary, delivered an important speech.

[Signed] The fifth AWP Central Committee plenum.

Tirana, 2 March 1988.

Cami Speaks

AU030911 Tirana ATA in English
0735 GMT 3 Mar 88

["Press Review"—ATA headline; report on report submitted by Foto Cami, politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the AWP, at the Fifth Plenum held in Tirana on 1-2 March 1988]

[Text] Tirana, March 3 (ATA)—Today the press carries the communique on the meeting of the 5th plenum of the Central Committee of the party.

The press also carries the report of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the party, submitted by Comrade Foto Cami, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the CC of the party, to the 5th plenum of the CC of the party. It stresses among the other things:

The years of socialist construction have been years of a profound cultural revolution, of the liquidation of backwardness and creation of a new socialist culture, of its fast rate and all-sided progress. The profound cultural transformations have touched the foundations and most important aspects of the culture of the nation, of its material and spiritual life. Today our country has a democratic and modern, socialist educational system, which trains the new generations, cadres and specialists of different branches, capable to cope with all the needs of the economic and social development. There has been created a broad network of scientific, cultural, and artistic institutions extended throughout the country and that conduct a fruitful high level activity in service of production, education, and defence of the homeland. A very significant expression of the cultural transformations is the change in the mode of living of the broad working masses, the woman's emancipation, the liquidation of the contrast between the town and countryside and narrowing of essential difference between them.

The cultural transformations, the report stresses, have not been a result of the spontaneous processes, but result of the conscious development that has been inspired and led by the party. They have been and are realized on a broad and solid theoretical base of the teachings of Marxism-Leninism. The party has drafted the platform, program, all the policy of cultural development and has led the struggle of the masses to transform the old world, to create a new socialist culture. This road has been and is illuminated by the theoretical work of Comrade Enver Hoxha, embodied in all the cultural achievements of the new Albania.

Our socialist civilization is in such a stage of development, in which its non-stop progress depends ever more on culture as well. As Comrade Ramiz Alia has pointed, our socialism is a deed of the physical strength of the masses, but it is more and more deed of their wisdom, knowledge, intellectual power, their cultural creativity.

Our new culture constitutes one of the greatest assets of our socialist homeland. It has become a skillful force to influence upon all the walks and aspects of life, on the rates and directions of its running, on the economy and ideology, technique and science, production and art, education and defence. Culture has assisted and assists the working and to extend non-stop their domination of nature to back up the all-sided and rapid progress of the country. [sentence as received]

In order to have a correct and vast understanding of culture, its place and role in our socialist society of special methodological and practical importance has been and is Comrade Enver Hoxha's idea that all our socialist life is and must be culture.

The fast rates and width of the achievements of cultural revolution and the fact that the cultural development of socialist Albania has always made progress, without changing its colour, the report stresses, have a genuine historic meaning. Opposing and coping with the treachery of modern revisionists and pressure of bourgeois ideology, our culture, under the leadership of the party, has never been deprived of Marxist-Leninist ideology and has always fully served the revolution and socialism.

At present, the class struggle in the field of culture is very complicated and fierce. It can be hidden neither by the slogans of "deideologization of culture" or the "convergence of bourgeois culture with the socialist one" that have been enlivened particularly in the context of implementing the policy of revisionist "perestroykas", which are a reconstruction of the revisionist order conform the forms of present western capitalism, and a new frontal attack against Marxism-Leninism, against scientific socialism and its revolutionary culture. [sentence as received]

Culture and its means, the educational and scientific institutions, radio-television and publications, the hearths and houses of culture, libraries and book shops, theaters and variety shows, cinemas and concert halls, professional and amateur ensembles, the galleries of arts and museums, etc., have assumed a wide extension. All this network has positively influenced in spreading the cultural values among the broad masses.

The new culture that is developing in our country, the report points out, claims distinction as for its national originality. In our country there is no contrast between the national character and socialist character of our culture, which strengthen reflecting and expressing the life of our society, which develops as a socialist nation. [sentence as received] The national character of culture assumes an historic importance in the actual struggle against cultural aggression of the imperialist superpowers and the preaches of their ideologists and other chauvinistic forces that defend the "internationalization" of culture, the liquidation of national cultural specifics, particularly that of the small peoples. It is not difficult to discover behind these preaches the policy of

Americanization, Russification and Slavization of cultures, which constitute one of the most anti-cultural works, spearheaded against the freedom and independence of the peoples, their national identity.

Our cultural and scientific institutions conduct an all-sided work to get acquainted with and make evident, preserve, restore, and propagate the values and traditions of our progressive culture.

The respect for the positive values and ancient traditions of national culture, their integration and development with the new socialist culture is not at all "romanticism," "national narrowness," "divinisation of outdated things," as the ideologists of superpowers and the chauvinist forces of every hue try to present it. In our country, in compliance with the Marxist-Leninist orientations of the party there has been applied the criterion of class appreciation of cultural heritage and a critical consistent stand has been adopted towards everything worn out, conservatory and reactionary of the culture of the past.

The report stressed further on that the consolidation of socialist and national character does not close our culture in a narrow shell and does not hinder it to enter and be in contact with world culture. The party observes these relations from a dialectical view point, and not as relations simply of dependence, but as active relations, in the framework of which our socialist culture not only borrows but also gives. Our culture is closed to everything that is decadent and reactionary, which descends from the nowadays degenerated bourgeois and revisionist culture, but at the same time it exploits and masters in a critical and creative way everything positive from the world progressive culture of the past and nowadays. We translate and publish the main works of the world progressive literature, films are shown on TV and on the cinema screens and foreign dramas are played on the theater stages, musical works are executed, art and book exhibitions are opened, folk ensembles, orchestras, conductors and instrumentalists from various countries give performances. The cultural relations and exchanges with the other countries have been extended. These are fruitful and of mutual profit. The party takes care that they develop in the future too.

The magnificence of our cultural revolution, the report stresses, consists also in the fact that it transformed the culture from a monopoly and privilege of a limited minority of exploiters to an ownership of the broad masses. All the party's goals have been and are that they be not only the object, but also active subject of culture. Our life consists of many examples that test the deeply democratic character of our culture. Suffice to mention the broad expansion of education, which includes nearly one-third of the population. The network of the cultural institutions has been as well expanded throughout the country. The working masses take active part in the scientific experimentation. A powerful revolutionary movement is that of the innovators and rationalizers of production. An excellent example of the activisation of the masses as subjects of the artistic creativity are also the national folklore festivals, in which have taken part over 70-80 thousand people and all the amateur artistic movement.

The development of culture in nowadays stage is inseparable from the efforts to assimilate the achievements of the contemporary technical and scientific progress, the report points out. A close link is noted between culture and the technical-scientific revolution. The struggle for culture today cannot be understood without the struggle to acknowledge, master, and apply modern science and technique. But the consequences the technical and scientific progress brings in culture directly depend on the character of the social order in our country, the values of science and technique are harmoniously interlaced with the socialist culture, the ideological and revolutionary moulding of the working people, socialist morale, the ideals of communism.

One of the priorities of our socialist order and culture consists in this as compared with the bourgeois-revisionist civilisation and culture. In accordance with the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, the report points out, our party has fought for the construction of socialism in the city and countryside, eliminating the contrast and ensuring their relatively equal development. The deep economic and social transformations, especially, the consolidation of the cooperativist order, have brought about fundamental transformations in the life of the peasantry and have led the countryside along the road of the flourishing of the new socialist culture.

The objective possibilities for the improvement of the cultural life of the countryside have been increased with the economic consolidation of the majority of the cooperatives and with the great contribution rendered by the state in all directions.

The proceedings of this plenum of the party's Central Committee, the decisions it will adopt and the tasks it will set forth, will give a powerful impulse to the fresh developments, the further flourishment and massivisation, the strengthening of the militant spirit, raising of the level and quality of our socialist culture, the report stresses in conclusion.

State Council Issues Final Election Results

AU021748 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 1 Mar 88 p 1

["Announcement On the Results of Elections For Oblast and Municipal People's Councils, Mayors, and People's Councillors in Townships" issued by the State Council in Sofia on 29 February 1988]

[Text] Elections for oblast and municipal people's councils, mayors, and people's councillors in townships were held on 28 February 1988.

The elections were prepared and held in the atmosphere of the current, fundamental restructuring process taking place in all spheres of our social life, in implementing the historic decisions of the 13th BCP Congress, of the July 1987 BCP Central Committee Plenum, and of the BCP National Conference, in connection with the further construction of socialism in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Legal prerequisites were created for the transformation of municipalities into self-managing communities and for turning the population into masters and managers of the respective territories. The essential changes and amendments to the Law on Elections, in accordance with the principles of self-management and in connection with the further expansion of socialist democracy, provided the necessary conditions for the people's real, mass participation in the preparations for the elections and in holding them.

Election activities were implemented with the direct participation and under the direct control of the people. Over 270,000 citizens— representatives of party and social organizations and movements, members of labor collectives, and of the army—were elected to the 43,700 elections commissions that were established.

The entire preelection activity proceeded in an atmosphere of intensified people's political and labor activities, in the spirit of increasing efforts to implement the plans on the country's scientific-technical and socioeconomic development in 1988 and of the Ninth 5-Year Plan. These activities were organized by the Fatherland Front, under the political leadership of the BCP, with the most active participation of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union [BZNS], of the Bulgarian Trade Unions, of the Dimitrov Komsomol, and of the other social organizations and public movements, including the labor collectives.

The elections turned into an important political event and a manifestation of the strength and reality of socialist democracy, demonstrating the people's direct participation in the management and administration of the state and society.

The elections were prepared and held in accordance with the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The law provided all political and other social organizations, the labor collectives, and the voters with opportunities to nominate, discuss and register more than one candidate for the posts of people's councillors and mayors.

The nominated candidates were discussed at numerous meetings in residential electoral districts, in labor collectives, educational institutions, and army units. Their professional, moral, and political qualifications were discussed in a frank and critical spirit. Other candidates were pointed out by the working people in certain places. In the established 55,539 election districts a total of 66,048 candidates for people's councillors and mayors were registered.

Preelection meetings and conferences with registered candidates turned into an open, political discussion on the party and state foreign and domestic policy, on the problems of revolutionary restructuring in all spheres of social life, in the activities of local, representative organs, in connection with the prospects for the consolidation and development of oblasts, municipalities, and townships, as self-managing territorial communities of the population. The voters submitted recommendations and proposals on the further democratization of the people's councils activities and for the consolidation of local self-management.

The elections on 28 February 1988 were an impressive, new manifestation of the people's unity and cohesion around the policy of the BCP and its Central Committee, headed by Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee.

Elections were held in 8 oblast people's councils and in the Sofia People's Council for 273 municipal people's councils and 3,985 townships.

According to data provided by oblast, municipal, and township election commissions the following results on the elections for oblast and municipal people's councils, for mayors, and people's councillors in townships have been established:

The election lists recorded a total of 6,652,792 voters for the whole country. Some 6,595,981, or 99.15 percent, of them participated in the elections, while 6,339,339, or 99.06 percent, voted for the registered candidates.

A total of 1,336 people's councillors were elected to the oblast people's councils and Sofia People's Council for whom 89.06 percent of the voters voted, while 0.80 percent voted against them.

The voters elected 25,866 people's councillors to the municipal people's councils. A total of 89.10 percent of the voters voted for them and 0.93 percent voted against them.

A total of 3,953 mayors were elected for whom 94.33 percent of the constituents voted, while 1.36 percent voted against them. The voters elected 23,959 people's councillors in townships for whom 89.90 percent voted, while 1.47 percent voted against them.

A total of 51,161 people's councillors were elected to the oblast people's councils, the Sofia City People's Council, the municipal people's councils, and townships: 31,094, or 60.78 percent of them are BCP members; 6,829, or

13.35 percent, of them are BZNS members; 13,238, or 25.87 percent, of them are non-party members; 12,347 of them, or 24.13 percent, are workers from the industrial sector, construction sector, or other such spheres; 9,434, or 18.44 percent, are agricultural workers; 14,893, or 29.11 percent, are women; 6,211, or 12.14 percent of them, are youths under the age of 30.

Among the 3,953 mayors elected, 3,559, or 90.01 percent, are BCP members; 186, or 4.70 percent, are BZNS members; 209 of them, or 5.29 percent, are non-party members; 532, or 13.23 percent, of them are women; 222, or 5.61 percent, are young people under the age of 30.

Elections were not held in five election districts, including elections for one Oblast People's Council, three municipal people's councils, and one mayor. In these districts the candidates had died after their registration.

In 302 election districts none of the candidates for people's councillors obtained the necessary number of votes, and this is the reason why 13 people's councillors were not elected to oblast people's councils and to the Sofia City People's Council. The same applies to 157 people's councillors in municipal people's councils and to 132 people's councillors in townships. Also 31 mayors were not elected.

New elections will be scheduled to take place in those election districts, where no elections were held, or no candidates were elected.

Editorial Analyzes Election Results

AU022020 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 1 Mar 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The People's Unity"]

[Text] Elections for oblast and municipal people's councils for mayors, and township councillors were held 2 days ago.

As usual, throughout the years following the 9 September 1944 people's revolution, this event proceeded in a peaceful atmosphere, fully observing the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Law on Elections. This last Sunday reconfirmed our people's unity, rallied around the party and its strategic line for the further construction of socialism in our innovative motherland. The voters expressed their support and voted for restructuring in all spheres of life, for the overall development of socialist democracy, for self-management of territorial communities.

The final election results have been announced. The most worthy candidates who deserve the people's confidence, have been elected for councillors and mayors. Addenda and amendments to the Law on Elections introduced the competitive principle and made it possible in several election districts to register 2, 3, or even 4 candidates. In some populous settlements none of the candidates obtained the required number of votes. This is by no means surprising, on the contrary, it expresses the strength of our democracy.

The newly elected people's councils are assuming their functions in a period of historic importance and changes. This requires them to be worthy of the great tasks entrusted to them by the BCP July Plenum concept on the development of self-management in the municipalities. Real successes have been achieved likely to free the creative energies of the working people, who are the real masters and managers of the territorial communities. The chief goal is to transform power from in the people's name to power through the people. This is the decisive goal which toward which we must proceed with confidence and unrelenting energy.

The new term of office of the oblast and municipal people's councils and municipalities is beginning. During the preelection meetings the voters submitted their recommendations, which represents one of the effective forms of the working people's participation in the self-management of territorial communities. The next task is to organize these recommendations in a systematic way and to list them according to their importance. Following discussions on them in the executive committees and leading bodies of the mass organizations these recommendations are to be submitted to the people's councils' sessions for confirmation and adoption. This is how, recommendations must become an inseparable part of the plans on the country's scientific-technical and socioeconomic development.

The political responsibility which the municipal councillors, mayors, and township councillors are assuming is great. They are called upon to earn the great confidence of the people with worthy deeds. With a feeling of tact, perseverance, and realism they must contribute to the achievement of most fruitful results throughout for the sake of common interests, throughout their entire term of office. They should, not only at meetings, or in occasional talks, but in daily meetings, consolidate their relations with those who have elected them. They are obliged to account for their work to them and seek their active support. This is how the advantage will be mutual.

The social responsibility of the voters is no less important. We voluntarily and readily cast our votes for the elected Fatherland Front candidate. Therefore, we confide in that candidate and assume the commitment to assist him in our joint work. We are correctly required to abstain from passive attitude and from the temptation of just expecting others to do things for us without contributing our own share. Let us, with practical deeds most actively participate in the consistent implementation of the plan adopted for the whole term of office. Self-management requires us to unite our efforts along the path of innovation.

The future of our towns and villages and of all municipalities, of all our homeland is entrusted to all of us—of the newly elected people's councillors and mayors, as well as and the voters. Let us work with selfless devotion for a better future—for our own future, the future of the collective in which we are working, and for the future of our society.

110th Liberation Anniversary Meeting Held

AU021639 [Editorial Report] Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian at 1500 GMT on 2 March begins a live relay from Sofia's Ivan Vazov National Theater of a festive meeting held to mark the 110th anniversary of Bulgaria's liberation from the Ottoman 'yoke'.

Reporter Boyan Bonev describes the crowded, festively decorated theater and stresses the importance of the occasion. At 1502 GMT Bonev reports the appearance of "Comrade Todor Zhivkov and other party and state leaders," who take their places in the honorary presidium. The Bulgarian national anthem is then performed.

At 1503 GMT Stefan Ninov, chairman of the Executive Committee of Sofia City People's Council, officially opens the meeting and gives the floor to Pencho Kubadinski, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Fatherland Front National Council.

Kubadinski begins his address by referring to the historic importance of the 3 March liberation anniversary, when the Bulgarian people pay homage to the heroism of the liberating Russian Army and the Bulgarian revolutionary patriots and volunteers who won independence for Bulgaria. He continues with a historical account of the events of the April uprising of 1876 and the 1877-78 Russo-Turkish War that led to Bulgaria's independence, paying obeisance to the Bulgarian heroes Levski, Botev, and other revolutionary heroes.

At 1525 GMT Kubadinski recalls the signing of the Treaty of San Stefano. He voices the gratitude of the Bulgarian people to the liberating Russian Army, together with the Romanian and other volunteers who helped to win Bulgaria's independence. Kubadinski then recalls the indignation of the Bulgarian people at the terms of the Treaty of Berlin that took away many of Bulgaria's gains. He recalls the early years of the Bulgarian workers' and peasants' struggle, with the formation of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union and the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, precursor of the BCP. He continues his historical account through the struggle with the bourgeoisie, the Soviet liberation of 1944, the historic April 1956 BCP Congress, up to the present period of radical restructuring in Bulgaria under the BCP leadership.

Kubadinski stresses the importance of the July and November 1987 plenums of the BCP Central Committee and the January 1988 BCP National Conference in establishing the specific guidelines for implementing Bulgaria's restructuring. He urges all party members, workers, and the entire people to wholeheartedly address themselves to the new tasks facing the country.

At 1538 GMT Kubadinski turns to foreign affairs, stressing Bulgaria's belief in peaceful coexistence and her undying friendship with the USSR. He welcomes the signing of the INF treaty and the further disarmament prospects it opens up in such areas as reducing strategic offensive weapons, banning nuclear tests, and settling regional conflicts, and so on and praises Gorbachev's leading role in this process. Kubadinski then pledges Bulgaria's devotion to preserving peace and establishing cooperation and good-neighborliness in the Balkans, demonstrated by her proposal to turn the Balkans into a chemical- and nuclear-weapon-free zone.

In conclusion, Kubadinski stresses that Bulgaria is determined to continue the heroic traditions by achieving qualitatively new growth in all spheres of life in Bulgaria, ending with the words: "Long live the eternal Bulgarian-Soviet friendship."

In his speech, Kubadinski makes no specific reference to any contemporary regional conflicts or disagreements.

Ninov closes the festive meeting at 1544 GMT. Boyan Bonev then ends the live relay at 1545 GMT, stating that the presidium of honour included "Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, and other party and state leaders."

BCP Control Organs Review Sanctions

AU031023 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 1 Mar 88 p 2

[RABOTNICHESKO DELO's own information: "Not the Real Culprits, But the Leader Is Guilty"]

[Text] A session of the BCP Central Control-Auditing Commission Bureau was held yesterday. It was chaired by Nacho Papazov, chairman of the commission.

A report dealing with an investigation conducted at the assignment of the BCP Central Committee Secretariat was discussed. It pertained to activities of Communists engaged in responsible tasks in municipalities and townships which are lagging behind in self-sufficiency regarding the supply with agricultural goods, as well to the work of Communists employed in the National Agro-Industrial Union, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Central Cooperative Union, and their departments.

A working plan on the work of the BCP Central Control-Auditing Commission in 1988 and a model program on the training of cadres for the BCP control-auditing commissions were adopted.

Petitions and objections of party members who had been punished were discussed. The sanction "reprimand" pronounced against Engineer Zdravko Yordanov Yanakiev by the former Kirkov Rayon Control Auditing Commission was canceled as unjustified. The latest investigation of this case established that the accusations against Engineer Zdravko Yanakiev, who was at that time chief director of the AGROPROMPROEKT institute (and is chief director of the Agricultural Construction and Irrigation-Land Improvement economic trust today) do not correspond to the truth. He was accused of discipline violations and disrupting the good atmosphere within the collective, of bad style and work methods, of unjust attitude toward cadres,

and so forth. It turned out that the critical remarks about him were based on complaints against Zdravko Yanakiev by employees and specialists who had served under him and who had been justly punished, or affected in their material interests by the strictness of their chief. Investigations of these complaints had not been thorough and objective enough and the conclusions from them are in contradiction with the positive evaluations of the institute's work. As sometimes happens, a disciplined leader was accused instead of those who were really guilty.

The sanction "reprimand" pronounced against Stoyan Ivanov Iskrenov by the former Pernik BCP Okrug Committee was canceled as having exerted its useful effect.

Holiday Schedule Changes Announced

AU021244 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 1 Mar 88 p 2

[BTA report: "Change in Holiday Schedule"]

[Text] In order to make better use of holidays without disrupting the regular pace of production activities in 1988, the Council of Ministers decided to declare 4 March (Friday) and 23 May (Monday) as holidays for citizens who work on a 5-day weekly schedule, while 6 March (Sunday) and 21 May (Saturday) will be declared working days.

Zhivkov, Atanasov Greet Soviet Leaders

AU021947 Sofia BTA in English 1836 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Sofia, March 2 (BTA)—The Bulgarian leaders Mr Todor Zhivkov and Mr Georgi Atanasov sent a cable of greetings to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr Andrey Gromyko, and Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of Bulgaria's liberation from the Ottoman yoke.

The cable stresses that the 1877-1878 Russo-Turkish war of liberation ended the five centuries of the Ottoman yoke, crowned with success the national liberation movement of the Bulgarian people, and revived the Bulgarian state.

110 years ago, in the hard battles of the war, Bulgaria's liberty was born, the friendship and fraternity between our two peoples were cemented for ever, reads the cable. Traced centuries back and passed through the trials of time, the Bulgaro-Soviet friendship today is our common and most precious acquisition. The revolutionary restructuring underway in the two countries today, under the leadership of the BCP and the CPSU, creates new mighty impulses for its further development.

In the day of this remarkable anniversary we once again express our resoluteness to continue to strengthen unflinchingly the fraternal friendship and to develop the all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union for the well-being of our two peoples, for the work of peace and socialism, reads the cable in conclusion.

Political Consultations With Norway in Sofia

AU022026 Sofia BTA in English 1856 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Sofia, March 2 (BTA)—Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria and Norway were held here from February 29 through March 2. The Bulgarian delegation was headed by Mr Lyuben Gotsev, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, and the Norwegian by Ms Kari Jesteby, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

The two sides discussed the condition and the prospects of the bilateral relations. It was ascertained that there are no disputable issues between the two countries and that favourable preconditions exist for the activation of their relations in the political, economic and cultural sphere.

Discussing international issues the two sides reviewed the situation in Europe after the signing of the Soviet-American INF treaty. They noted with satisfaction that the psychological climate in Europe is changing. In the present conditions, when the new political thinking gains ever wider ground, broader possibilities emerge for the development of the relations between the East and the West, especially for the settlement of the European problems in the spirit of equality and mutual advantage.

The guests were briefed on the situation in the Balkans, on the main results of the Belgrade meeting and on Bulgaria's positions on the questions of peace and disarmament. On their part the guests dwelled on the problems of security and cooperation in Northern Europe. The Norwegian position on the European problems was expressed, as well as on the questions of disarmament.

The two delegations exchanged opinions on certain regional problems of international relations. An agreement on avoiding double taxation between the two countries was signed. The leader of the Norwegian delegation was received by Mr Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, by Mr Georgi Yordanov, minister of culture, science and education, and by Mr Konstantin Atanasov, first deputy head of the Foreign Policy and International Relations Department at the CC of the BCP.

Briefs

Joint Trust Founded

"Biotechmash" is the newest Bulgarian-USSR trust, which will implement uniform scientific-technical and production policy to better satisfy the needs of the two countries concerning machine building production for biotechnological processes. It is only one of the results achieved during the visit to Bulgaria by Valeriy Bykov, USSR minister of medical and microbiological industry. [Excerpt] [*Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 27 Feb 88 p 2 AU*]

Chnoupek Speaks on Jakes Initiative

LD021733 Prague CTK in English
1602 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Prague March 2 (CTK)—The initiative proposed by Czechoslovak Communist Party General Secretary Milos Jakes on February 24 was described as a major contribution to the implementation of the coordinated peace policy of the socialist countries by Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek today.

The initiative provides for the creation of a zone of confidence, cooperation and good neighbourly relations on the line dividing the Warsaw Treaty and NATO states.

"The same aims were pursued by the joint Czechoslovak-GDR proposals for the establishment of a chemical-weapon-free zone and a nuclear-weapon-free corridor in central Europe, submitted in the recent years," Bohuslav Chnoupek told journalists.

The Czechoslovak initiative is in harmony with the "Jaruzelski Plan" for reducing armament and strengthening peace in central Europe. It extends the framework of the proposal not only territorially but also in content, because it is to cover, besides the military sphere, also the political, economic, ecological and humanitarian fields.

The minister specified that the Czechoslovak proposal concerns a zone on the borders of Norway, Soviet Union, FRG, GDR, Greece, Turkey, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. Denmark, Poland and Romania are also considered. "We want to get our ideas across to all major political forces and non-governmental organizations", Bohuslav Chnoupek stressed.

The minister also dealt with Czechoslovakia's initiative to call an economic forum to Prague, presented to the Vienna follow-up meeting.

"We are convinced that we are fully entitled to hold the economic forum", he said noting that a similar proposal to call an economic conference has been made by the Federal Republic of Germany in agreement with the states of the European Economic Community. "It would be the first event within the process of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe held in Czechoslovakia. We favour the creation of conditions for the development of further economic cooperation between all participants in the Helsinki process, and the participation of socialist and capitalist enterprise circles as equal partners. Our concept of an economic forum creates greater possibilities for this than the concept of the FRG and the EEC to hold an economic conference", Bohuslav Chnoupek stated.

The minister went on to characterize the aims of Czechoslovak foreign policy in 1988 as an effort to actively help promote detente and participate in the peace offensive of the socialist countries. "We appreciate the Soviet Union's effort to ensure the continuity and irreversibility of the process of disarmament. We regard 50 percent cuts in strategic offensive weapons, with strict observance of the anti-ballistic missile treaty, as a priority".

In relations with the developing countries, Czechoslovakia will expand mutual cooperation, on the basis of support for their anti-imperialist policy and with a special view to expanding economic contacts. Extending the dialogue and passing on from confrontation to cooperation, in the spirit of new thinking, is the main line of Czechoslovakia's relations with the developed capitalist states. Special attention will continue to be given to relations with neighbouring Austria and the FRG.

Bohuslav Chnoupek said that Czechoslovakia's foreign political activity will also be manifested in the planned visits of Czechoslovak representatives to foreign countries and expected visits to Czechoslovakia this year. They will include more than 70 actions in support of bilateral relations.

After visits to the Soviet Union and Poland, Czechoslovak Communist Party General Secretary Milos Jakes plans to tour this year all other Warsaw Treaty members states. In May, he will pay official visits to the Chinese People's Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Czechoslovakia expects to welcome for instance U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee Yas'r 'Arafat.

Further Report

LD022019 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1730 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek held a news conference today at which he briefed correspondents on the main objectives of Czechoslovak foreign policy this year. Among those present was correspondent Jiri Halousek:

[Halousek] Comrade Bohuslav Chnoupek stressed that once again this year, Czechoslovakia will be taking an active part in all tasks connected to the fundamental goals of preserving and strengthening world peace and developing cooperation between nations. The latest confirmation of this fact is the proposal to set up a zone of confidence, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations on the line dividing the Warsaw Pact and NATO states, which was announced at the festive session to mark the 40th anniversary of the February victory by Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary. Czechoslovakia, Bohuslav Chnoupek said at today's news conference, understands this proposal to directly concern Norway, the Soviet Union, the GDR, the FRG, Greece,

Turkey, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria, but it is also open to other countries. On this point, Bohuslav Chnoupek went on to say the following:

[Begin Chnoupek recording in Slovak] In working out this proposal, we started out from the conviction that all European countries, large and small, have extensive opportunities to make their own contribution to strengthening the current positive political trends. We started out from the view that [word indistinct] peace and security can no longer be ensured today solely by measures in the military sphere, and that, as Comrade Gorbachev says, in fact, they have a wider dimension affecting all humanity. The suggestions provided by the disarmament dialogue, we believe, need to be exploited in order to attain progress in all spheres of cooperation. That is why we favor a comprehensive approach, focused equally on the military, political, economic, ecological, and humanitarian fields. [end recording]

[Halousek] It is the comprehensive nature of the latest Czechoslovak proposal, stated Bohuslav Chnoupek, that is appreciated in the initial foreign reactions which we have received so far. In the next few days, we expect other countries to give their official stand on this initiative. As far as bilateral relations this year are concerned, the priority area in Czechoslovak foreign policy will continue to be relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries in which, in the context of the restructuring which is going on, specific new forms of cooperation are taking shape. In our relations with developing countries, we ought to step up our own activity, particularly in the economic sphere, and mutual contacts with the capitalist countries ought to register a shift from competition to partnership. When I asked what the prospects were this year for relations with the FRG—and that country is directly affected by the latest Czechoslovak peace initiative—Bohuslav Chnoupek first commended the results of the visit in January by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Czechoslovakia, and then went on as follows:

[Begin Chnoupek recording in Slovak] Here it will be primarily a matter of continuing the political dialogue at a high level. As far as economic cooperation is concerned, there is a wide range of different possibilities: In this context it is interesting to note that the initiatives are ours, and they essentially agree with the suggestions or ideas of the FRG. It will also be a question of cooperation in the ecological sphere, where various possible forms of cooperation are under consideration, including the granting of credits, licences, patents, and so on and so forth.

As far as transport, shall we say, is concerned, there have been detailed discussions on linking our freeway system with that of the FRG. In addition, I would reel off a whole range and long list of work which has been developed and which still remains to be developed; but as far as we are concerned, we intend to pursue active cooperation in the sphere of international policy. [end recording]

[Halousek] That is what Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek had to say. The overall course of today's news conference confirmed that our foreign policy this year is faced with a whole list of tasks, and that together with the other socialist countries a great deal of activity will be pursued. This is confirmed by the fact that about 70 bilateral meetings at high and highest levels are envisioned.

Television Report

LD022127 Prague Television Service in Slovak 1830 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Here are reactions to the proposal of Comrade Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, to create a zone of trust, cooperation and good neighborly relations on the line dividing the Warsaw Pact and NATO states. [passage omitted]

A press conference on this proposal was held in Cernin Palace in Prague today.

The essence of the proposal—aspects of which were analyzed by Comrade Chnoupek within the framework of a review of the overall direction of Czechoslovak foreign policy—is to create a zone of confidence, cooperation and good neighborly relations in the line dividing Warsaw Pact and NATO states. From this viewpoint the zone should, preliminarily, concern Norway, the USSR, the two German states, Poland, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Greece and Turkey.

The foreign minister emphasized above all the comprehensive character of the proposal which concentrates in the same way on the military sphere, as on the economic, political and humanitarian sphere. In his words, this Czechoslovak initiative meets with the interests of not only the socialist countries, but also of some Western countries. It seems that the prevailing practice so far of refusing immediately all proposals coming from the East is being revised a bit in the West.

Let us recall that in the military sphere Czechoslovakia proposes to create a zone of reduced confrontation from which the most dangerous types of weapons would be removed. And in other spheres?

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Naturally, the question of prominent importance is that of disarmament. The proposal however says—and you yourself have stressed it here—that provisions in the military sphere alone would not suffice. After all, wars are not waged by weapons but by people and it is necessary to create confidence among them. What concrete steps in this direction could result from the Czechoslovak initiative?

[Chnoupek] If you have in mind the practical working out of this initiative for the creation of a zone of confidence and cooperation, then we have in mind above all the expansion of the political dialogue; not only along the official high-level line but along the entire structure of the community of these or those countries. We have in mind the issue of cooperation in the economic sphere and not only through the classical forms—the traditional classical trade—but its development into higher spheres of economic cooperation, coordination of production, specialization of joint enterprises. We have in mind the humanitarian sphere, increased contact among people, more tourism, making travel easier, more contacts with special emphasis on young people. We have in mind ecological cooperation. We are unfortunately badly afflicted here in the center of Europe with this phenomenon of our times and in this area we could cooperate very extensively—almost boundlessly—with the neighboring NATO countries: with the FRG—with which we have already started to cooperate in this area—with Austria, and with northern countries. I can say that the horizons of this cooperation are very far reaching in a positive sense as they provide huge areas for cooperation in all spheres. [end recording]

[Announcer] Comrade Chnoupek developed this topic also in the answers to other questions from journalists. He spoke, among other things, about the possibility of interconnecting the motorway system of Czechoslovakia and the FRG, about facilitating mutual contacts by issuing visas directly on borders, on working together on technological patents, on joint ecological projects and so on.

He said in the conclusion: We must overcome ideas, often distorted, about the mutual aims and intentions, and extend and improve the quality of mutual communications. To put in briefly: We must get to know each other better.

Chnoupek Holds Conference on CSSR Initiative

LD021734 Moscow TASS in English 1554 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Prague, March 2 (TASS)—The proposal of Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee, on building a zone of trust and cooperation, of goodneighbourly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw-Treaty states and the NATO member-countries has had the support of Czechoslovakia's allies. This was stressed by Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, who was addressing a press conference in Prague today. Reliable peace and security cannot be ensured in this day and age only through measures in the military field. Therefore Czechoslovakia favours a comprehensive approach, which equally concerns the military, political, economic, ecological and humanitarian fields.

In the military field, Czechoslovakia proposes that a "rarefied zone" be gradually created, i.e. that the most dangerous weapons be withdrawn from it, that confidence-building measures be taken that would reduce the level of military confrontation.

The aim of the Czechoslovak proposal is to contribute towards disarmament talks at all levels. A specific step in this direction is also the start of withdrawal of the Soviet missiles from the territory of Czechoslovakia and the GDR prior to the ratification of the Soviet-American treaty on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, Bohuslav Chnoupek underscored in conclusion.

Prague Reports Reagan Statements on Arms

LD012329 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has declared that Washington never sacrifices the interests of its allies to any disarmament treaty with the USSR. At the annual conference of U.S. war veterans he said that the Soviet-U.S. treaty on reducing strategic offensive weapons should have the same priority as the treaty on the balance of conventional weapons in Europe. Although the President called for an entire ban on chemical weapons, at the same time he claimed that the United States must allegedly update its chemical weapons in the face of the Soviet threat. He repeated yet again that the only effective way of behaving toward the USSR is a policy based on a position of force.

Commentary on Nuclear Missile Withdrawal

AU031403 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 27 Feb 88 p 5

[Milan Rusko commentary in the "Word on Events" column: "Evidence of Constructive Approach"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Soviet Union took a significant step a few days ago: With initiative, and unilaterally, it decided to withdraw its operational-tactical missiles from the GDR and the CSSR before ratification. From Hranice in Moravia, and from Waren on Lake Muritz and Bischofswerda in the GDR special trains started with identical freight—mobile launchers for shorter-range operational missiles. [passage omitted]

The first shipments, which set off for the USSR on Thursday, are destined for an area where nuclear warheads, carriers, and other auxiliary equipment will be destroyed. [passage omitted]

The scrapping of missiles started after the consultations between the USSR, the CSSR, and the GDR, and—as the statement of the Soviet Government concerning the withdrawal of Soviet missiles stresses—from the outcome of the deliberations of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact member states in Berlin in May 1987. Citizens in the CSSR, the GDR, the USSR,

but also in other countries welcomed this unilateral step. However, bourgeois propaganda, especially in the United States, wants to offset the positive influence on public opinion by casting doubt on the sincerity of the Soviet action. Washington proclaims that, even though the missiles are being withdrawn—the last shipments are to leave by the end of May—this, allegedly, is only a propaganda trick, because the Soviet Union will not scrap them before ratification.

However, the Soviet-American treaty also contains articles pertaining to verification that the weapons are scrapped. This verification can only be carried out by inspectors on which the two sides agreed in advance, and they can begin their work only after ratification. The Soviet Union, in cooperation with the CSSR and the GDR, creates conditions that make it possible to implement the stipulations concerning scrapping the missiles as fast as possible. Unfortunately, the other side leaves much to be desired in this respect. The broad public, and not only in the CSSR—and the protests against the presence of American missiles in the FRG are evidence of this—would very much welcome it if the United States would also do what they depict as a Soviet "propaganda trick" as soon as possible, and begin withdrawing its missiles from Western Europe.

Apart from the USSR, the CSSR and the GDR are the only Warsaw Pact states where nuclear missiles are stationed. In the second half of March, nuclear weapons will be stationed only in the USSR. And if someone wants to speak in this connection of "propaganda," he must admit that its essence lies in concrete demilitarization measures and its objective is European nuclear disarmament and peace.

Balkans Conference on Need To Expand Dialogue

AU011301 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 27 Feb 88 p 7

[Petr Vana commentary in the "We Comment" column: "Fruitful Balkan Dialogue; From Our Belgrade Reporter"]

[Text] Progress in USSR-U.S. relations and in the European detente process created a favorable atmosphere for holding the first meeting of foreign ministers of the Balkan peninsula—an area with a most sensitive history that is full of conflicts. At the same time the 24-26 February meeting in Belgrade of the representatives of Albania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Romania, Greece, and Turkey contributed to a positive development not only in that area, but also in Europe and throughout the world.

The road toward security and cooperation undoubtedly leads via increased trust among states. So far this trust has not been typical for the Balkans. Mutual relations in that area are burdened by a negative legacy. Different political views, social systems, and sometimes even opposed interests stand face to face there. The 6 countries are inhabited by some 20 nationalities, and the many tensions in the region have won it the name "powderkeg." A lot of effort and political will, but also a great deal of realism on the part of all the involved countries, were needed before their ministers took their place at the roundtable.

The Yugoslav foreign minister said at the conclusion of the meeting that its results surpassed all expectations of the organizers and hosts. The joint communique calls their deliberations a "significant contribution to detente and to the creation of a good atmosphere and dialogue in the Balkans." The main common interests of all Balkan countries and their peoples are peace, detente, and the consolidation of security. Although they continue to differ in their approaches to how these goals should be pursued, they all are prepared to contribute to reaching them. An example of this is the very significant proposal to rid the Balkans of all nuclear and chemical weapons and foreign bases.

The meeting emphasized those groups of issues where common interests and close stands are drawing the countries together—that is, transportation, economics, trade, environmental protection, culture, sports, and the joint struggle against criminality. The adopted conclusions and recommendations form the foundation for developing broad cooperation on a bilateral as well as a multilateral basis.

Progress was also achieved on the very sensitive problem of national minorities. This is proved by the view expressed at the meeting that these minorities should become the connecting bridge that supports friendship and mutual relations. The protocol on collaboration in humanitarian affairs, economies, and other spheres—a very unique protocol signed at the beginning of the meeting by representatives from Bulgaria and Turkey—provides an example of this.

From Albania (participating in this kind of meeting for the first time in many years) and to Turkey (in alphabetical order), every single state contributed to the success of the meeting. This is proved by the final joint document, which will be considered historic, and not only in the Balkans. It contains specific common tasks for the coming period, but also the orientation for the future—toward strengthening peace, trust, and cooperation.

The CSSR public welcomes the positive steps taken in this direction. We are linked with the Balkan states not only because we belong to the same continent—Europe—but also by numerous and rich mutual relations. It is as the Czechoslovak foreign minister stated in his greetings message to the meeting: We particularly value the contribution made by the fruitful Balkan dialogue to European security, to peace in the world, and to cooperation.

The attention with which the public abroad viewed the Belgrade deliberations also testifies to their importance. They demonstrated the goodwill and the political and statesmanlike maturity of the countries, no matter whether they are members of the Warsaw Pact or of NATO, or belong to the nonaligned states.

The meeting confirmed not only the need to continue and expand the dialogue, but also this dialogue's beneficial nature. A lot of effort is still required before the indicated directions of cooperation will establish in practice the possibilities for resolving problems and achieving good-neighborly relations.

Results Welcomed

LD011239 Prague CTK in English
1145 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Prague March 1 (CTK)—"We are convinced that the Balkan countries will successfully solve questions of multilateral and bilateral cooperation, contribute to the strengthening of peace in Europe", Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry spokesman Dusan Rovensky said here today.

Czechoslovakia welcomed from the very beginning the Yugoslav initiative of May 1987 to organize a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries, he said.

"We welcome the results of the Belgrade dialogue as significant and stimulating. Its significance exceeds the boundaries of the Balkans and is important for the creation of relations of good neighbourhood and cooperation in Europe. We fully support the idea of creating a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons, as well as significant proposals for the expansion of cooperation between the Balkan countries with different social systems. We are convinced that the Balkan states are able to cope successfully with all questions of multilateral and bilateral cooperation through joint efforts and in a constructive and friendly spirit, and still more effectively contribute to the strengthening of peace," the spokeman stressed.

Politburo Member Bilak Visits Cuba

For Cuban reportage on the visit to Cuba by CPCZ Politburo member Vasil Bilak, including his participation in ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of the "construction of socialism" in Czechoslovakia, see the Cuba subsection of the Caribbean section of the 3 March Latin America DAILY REPORT.

Indra Writes on Restructuring

LD031020 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
0800 GMT 3 Mar 88

[From the press review]

[Text] RUDE PRAVO publishes an article by Alois Indra, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and chairman of the Federal Assembly, under the headline "Restructuring and Lessons from the Crisis-Ridden Development."

In the article he stresses that the policy of the restructuring of the entire life of our society—that is, fundamental changes in the economic mechanism and the deepening of the socialist democracy—are a continuation of the democratic revolution. He notes that this means not only to learn from the Soviet Union's and other socialist countries' experiences, while respecting our national special circumstances, but above all to learn lessons from our own history, to respect experiences of the previous and present generations. Thus it is necessary to keep in mind the permanent validity of the lessons from the crisis-ridden development in the Party and society after the 13th CPCZ Congress.

Alois Indra points out that this year—an anniversary year of the crisis-ridden developments of 1968—is, and no doubt will remain, a convenient topic of the bourgeois mass media. Groups of the so-called dissidents also want to warm their soup on the fire of restructuring—they are under wrong illusions that the time is ripe for them to return with fanfare to the political scene. They are spreading myths that their activities in the late 1960's were identical to the Soviet perestroyka [previous word in Russian], and hope that the sharp edge of right-wing and antisocialist attacks during the crisis-ridden period has become somewhat blunt in people's memory. We have to therefore keep returning to that period, Alois Indra stresses. It is in the interest of our policy, in the interest of socialism for the people to learn the facts of that period, learn about that which did in fact happened then—and the lesson shows the path toward the truth.

Alois Indra analyzes in detail the internal political atmosphere from the first weeks of 1968, above all, attempts to use the economic reforms as an instrument for division. He illustrates with specific examples the deviation from democracy, which was growing into anarchy. He also shows how the party leadership and right-wing forces in the mass media contributed to the disorientation of society and to open anti-Sovietism. As he writes, the fake effort for the so-called face of Czechoslovak foreign policy only covered the undermining of alliance ties regardless our own security.

It is true in socialism that the state of a communist party reflects on the state of a society, Alois Indra writes, and stresses that the party was not up to the tasks; it lost political initiative and stopped fulfilling the function of the leading political force. Some members of the Presidium did not keep to the adopted decisions, did what they themselves thought to be suitable—that which promoted their popularity and that which helped them—not caring whether this damaged the party. And thus, in the chaos which was created because of the inconsistency of the party leadership, the party and sections of the entire system were gradually falling apart.

All this only changed after the new leadership, headed by Comrade Gustav Husak, came to office in April 1969, Alois Indra recalls. The party renewed its ideological and

organizational unity and action ability, carried out criticism of all mistakes, and its domestic and foreign policy started serving the social progress. Today we can see more sharply our own failures, but the experiences compiled by the CPCZ, by our working class and people cannot and must not be forgotten. They, above all, enable us to lean on the achieved results in the building of the socialist community, and thus carry out more boldly the policy of restructuring, Comrade Alois Indra stressed at the end of the RUDE PRAVO article "Restructuring and a Lesson From the Crisis-Ridden Development."

Jakes' Order of Day on Anniversary
AU021219 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 24 Feb 88 pp 1,2

[CTK report: "The Order of the Day of the Chief Commander of the People's Militia"]

[Text] Prague—Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and chief commander of the People's Militia in the CSSR, has issued the following Order of the Day on the 40th anniversary of the working people's February victory and the founding of the People's Militia:

Comrades, members of the People's Militia!

The victory of the Czechoslovak working people over reaction in February 1948 has become the decisive milestone in the modern history of our nations. It unequivocally resolved the question of political power for the benefit of the workers class and the working people, headed by the CPCZ. This victory successfully concluded the transformation of a national and democratic revolution into a socialist revolution, and fully paved the way for profound socialist changes in our fatherland. It affirmed and further deepened the foreign-political orientation of our country, relying on the unshakable friendship and alliance with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the nascent world socialist system.

The origin of the People's Militia is inseparably connected with Victorious February 1948. Their resolute and disciplined appearance significantly contributed to the defeat of reaction and the assertion of the revolutionary demands of the working people in a peaceful, constitutional manner. At its birth, the People's Militia was given the concrete task of protecting the revolutionary achievements of the working people against actions by domestic and foreign enemies. It has remained loyal to this February legacy as long as it exists.

With justified pride, we assess the results which we have achieved in the process of socialist construction. We have built a strong industrial base and carried out the socialist restructuring of the countryside. Our socialist social system has become broadly developed and strengthened. That—together with the high standard of education, the development of culture and the arts, the perfection of health care for the people and strengthening their social certainties—is the evidence that we embarked on the correct path in February 1948. However, on that path we have also not avoided some mistakes and errors. The profound crisis at the end of the 1960's in particular was the most difficult test for our party and socialist society. The CPCZ has drawn the necessary lessons from these facts.

We are marking the 40th anniversary of the February victory of the working people at the time when our socialist society has embarked upon a new stage in its development, which requires the carrying out of profound revolutionary changes in all spheres of its life. The most important task of all communists is to stand at the head of the struggle to fulfill the strategic line of the acceleration of the social and economic life of society, to implement the national restructuring, the foundation of which is the broad development of socialist democracy and the realization of the restructuring in the economic mechanism.

Comrades, in the spirit of the revolutionary legacy of Victorious February, orient your efforts toward strengthening the share of the People's Militia in the fulfillment of the political, economic, and ideological tasks arising from the conclusions of the 17th CPCZ Congress, from the strategy of the acceleration of the economic and social life of our society, and the requirements of the party's paramilitary and security policy.

Comrade commanders and platoon leaders [nacelnici], strive for the further cadre, organizational, and ideological strengthening of the People's Militia, to improve the management and organizational work of regional staffs and the command of the enterprise units of the People's Militia, to develop fully collective cooperation, while being aware of party responsibility for the further comprehensive preparedness of the People's Militia to fulfill the entrusted tasks. Based on the model of the best units, organize socialist competition for the excellent fulfillment of tasks of the training period. Take an active part in the development of political and work initiative in fulfilling tasks related to the national economy. Concentrate on improving educational work, especially among youth.

Deepen the cooperation between the People's Militia and the formations and facilities of the Czechoslovak People's Army, the National Security Corps, the troops of the Ministry of Interior, the Union for Cooperation with the Army, and the other components of the state's paramilitary system.

Comrade militiawomen and militiamen, I congratulate you on the 40th anniversary of Victorious February and the rise of the People's Militia!

I thank you on behalf of the CPCZ Central Committee and on my own behalf for your comprehensive help to realize the tasks determined by the 17th CPCZ Congress.

Let us, under the CPCZ's leadership, use all our energy for the further prosperity of our socialist fatherland.

Lenart Addresses Victorious February Rally
AU021114 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak
26 Feb 88 pp 1,2

[Speech by Jozef Lenart, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and first secretary of the CPSL Central Committee, at a rally marking the 40th anniversary of Victorious February in Bratislava on 25 February]

[Excerpts] Esteemed Comrades, esteemed inhabitants of Bratislava, dear young friends!

We celebrate our great revolutionary holiday today—the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Czechoslovak people over the reactionary bourgeoisie. [passage omitted]

We vividly recall the establishment of the action committees of the revived National Front and the inception of the People's Militia, the armed guarantee of the people's will. We recall the firm and energetic course of the CPSL agencies and organizations, of the leading comrades and, in particular, of Comrade Husak. Like in Prague, when they submitted their resignation, in Bratislava, too, representatives of the bourgeoisie wanted to deceive and cheat people with such demagoguery. They did not succeed, however, and found themselves on the rubbish heap of history. [passage omitted]

After 4 decades we ask ourselves again what was at stake in the February encounter, what caused it, and what did one fight for.

After the liberation by the Soviet Army workers from factories, poor people from the countryside, and those members of the intelligentsia that were loyal to the people began building a new republic with great zeal. [passage omitted] But not everyone behaved like that. Political representatives of the bourgeoisie in the government and the National Front were thwarting the endeavor of the people, sabotaging the implementation of the Kosice government program. It was increasingly obvious that they were doing all they could to turn the developments back to capitalism. [passage omitted]

It was being decided whether the freedom and independence of the republic would be reliably ensured by strengthening the alliance with the Soviet Union, which stood by our side in the cruel moments of Munich and brought us freedom, or whether the republic would again become the subject of wheeling and dealing by treacherous imperialist circles.

To put it concisely, dear friends—in those days, really everything was at stake! And in that moment of truth the working people understood the fatefulness of the historic moment and under the CPCZ's leadership, headed by Klement Gottwald, gave a cogent answer to reaction, which treasonably left the government and smashed the National Front. They asserted that its agents must not return to the government, and representatives of the parties and organizations of the revived National Front came in their stead. [passage omitted]

We won because the working people were united, because they wanted to embark upon a new path—the path of social justness, which only socialism could ensure!

We won because we had the Soviet Union on our side, the influence and authority of which prevented outside intervention in favor of reaction, and made it possible for the will of the people to be democratically asserted.

Thus, when pre-February bourgeois politicians in the service of reactionary centers of imperialism to this day come forward with used up arguments about conspiracy in Czechoslovakia, we can tell them: Yes, gentlemen, it was your own conspiracy against the republic, against the interests of the people, with the result that you found yourself isolated and your gamble did not come off then. [passage omitted]

When we speak about the strength and advantages of socialism, we see them particularly markedly also in Slovakia. [passage omitted]

True, the construction of socialism was not a relay race of successes. There were also defeats, mistakes, and—unfortunately—also the violation of socialist legality with tragic consequences in the political, ethical, and personal respect. Under the complex internal and international conditions, under the pressure of the danger of war, in favor of what was the new and against what was old, it was necessary to fight tenaciously, seek out and cross unexplored terrain, which put exceptional demands on the Communist Party. The party embarked upon the path of rectifying mistakes, but retreated before the pressure of reactionary forces which scented their opportunity for revenge for February dramatically tangled developments. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Comrades, when we evaluate, proudly and with self-confidence, what has been created, we should not be looking at things through rose-tinted glasses. We realize that we could not have done so much more, but we could have done things better, and that life does not stand still. The needs of society are increasing and changing, the world advances rapidly. This is also obvious on the market where there is a need for quality and greater choice. We know how urgent the lack of comprehensive [nekomplexnost] housing construction is and the problem of apartments for young people. We must definitely put an end to sloppiness in respect to the

environment, improve health services, modernize nutrition and education. We can all see how much work there is to be done, how many shortcomings there are, and everything that has to be done for us to live better, more happily.

Proceeding from the awareness of the growing needs, the Communist Party—as a loyal servant of the people—worked out and the 17th Congress approved the program for the development of socialist democracy, the line of the socioeconomic development of society, its restructuring. The essence is that citizens should get involved, that we should overcome indifference, that they would be transformed from simple manpower into co-managers and co-entrepreneurs, that broad strata would become involved, thus making it possible for us to advance in intensifying the economy, as well as in all spheres of life. The purpose is be up to the requirements of the times as regards satisfying the material and spiritual needs of the people. [passage omitted]

Our Communist Party welcomes the fact that the majority of the working people agree with and support the new road. We thank them, but that is not enough. We do not hide the fact that there are also people who are marking time, and people who shrug their shoulders. They say that we are worrying for no reason and complicating our lives. And there are also people who identify themselves with restructuring, but are doing things in the old way. [passage omitted]

Esteemed friends! Right from the beginning we were building socialism in our country under the pressure exerted by imperialism, which was waging a cold war against us, instigating internal subversion, and organizing resistance by the defeated reaction. That required strengthening the country's defense capability and internal security. Together with the other socialist countries, we had to make great efforts to safeguard peaceful conditions for construction. The program for a world without nuclear weapons, the Soviet disarmament initiatives, which we fully support, give our joint foreign policy features of innovation, dynamism, and offensiveness.

The result is the agreement on the elimination of two classes of Soviet and American nuclear weapons, which is an event of all-human significance for the whole of mankind. And there is also the intention to conclude shortly an agreement on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons by half, which would be the breakthrough to a non-nuclear world.

However, these successes—as Comrade Gorbachev recalled recently— must not lull us. Opponents of normalization are becoming active, as well as militarists in the United States and the NATO European states, there are provocations on the Soviet border. Therefore, we must escalate the struggle for peace, to exclude war from international politics, to save millions and millions of people. All this spurs us and obliges us to continue decisively and resolutely on the path of acceleration and restructuring, which give socialism new dynamism and strengthen the role of our fatherland in the socialist community, in the struggle for the victory of the ideals of socialism, the freedom of man, humanism, peace, and cooperation. [passage omitted]

Five More 'Critics' Arrested

LD021508 Hamburg DPA in German 1248 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Berlin (DPA)—The authorities in East Berlin have arrested another five critics of the practice of deporting inconvenient citizens. According to information in West Berlin, the arrests are in connection with the Liebknecht-Luxemburg demonstration on 17 January. They occurred yesterday but were not known until today.

Those arrested are literary expert Peter Boethig, actor and director Thomas Schulz, musician Michael Zickert, photographer Hermann Koeppen, and metal artist Rainer Baltin. They are said to have spoken out against the practice of deportation in a letter to state and party chief Erich Honecker. All applied to emigrate a long time ago.

Disarmament Opponents Criticized

AU011841 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 27-28 Feb 88 p 2

[T.M. commentary: "The Withdrawal of Missiles"]

[Text] The withdrawal of Soviet intermediate-range missiles of the lower range spectrum (OTR-22) from GDR territory has started. As announced by Erich Honecker on 24 January, the withdrawal has begun earlier than originally planned, which means that it is taking place before the ratification of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate and Shorter-Range Missiles (500 to 5,000 km). This is a historic moment for which we have long worked and struggled!

When NATO started to deploy Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe in 1983, the Warsaw Pact states had to counterarm in the interest of their security. Many feared at the time that the prospects for disarmament were therefore obstructed. Our party replied with the call: Now more than ever before! Millions in our country answered with higher achievements in strengthening socialism: My place of work is my battle station for peace!

Our party, the people and the Government of the GDR made an active contribution to the coming about of the treaty in Washington. Now we are already acting in its spirit. This has caused great pleasure and deep satisfaction among GDR citizens. And in addition to that the early withdrawal of missiles agreed upon between the Soviet Union, the GDR, and the CSSR is an example that has met with respect all over the world.

This also applies to the United States: White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater spoke of a good sign. And this applies to the FRG as well: Alfred Dregger, chairman of the CDU-CSU Bundestag group, assessed the GDR step positively.

And now, precisely at this moment, when the other side should follow the good example, the DPA news agency carries the call of high NATO officials "to keep the remaining minimum arsenal of nuclear weapons efficient." And the report continues: "In addition, new weapons with a range of over 500 km (!) are required which can assume the tasks of the intermediate-range missiles eliminated by the INF treaty."

This is a dangerous program. It is directly opposed to the start of real nuclear disarmament, which was brought about by both sides through the active support of their partners.

This must not be allowed to happen. As far as we are concerned, we will do everything so that disarmament will continue. The nuclear devilry of all ranges must disappear. Conventional armed forces and weapons must be reduced to the level of nonaggression capability. Chemical weapons must be banned. In view of the resistance of those who want to "add" what has been already eliminated after great efforts through negotiations, we reaffirm: Now more than ever before!

LCY's KOMUNIST Interviews Honecker

LD291337 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 29 Feb 88 P 3

[Interview with Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, granted to the weekly KOMUNIST: "Erich Honecker Interview for KOMUNIST, Organ of the LCY", on 9 February 1988 in Berlin].

[Text] Berlin, 29 Feb (ADN)—The text of the interview which Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, granted to Vitomir Sudarski, publishing house director of KOMUNIST, the organ of the LCY, reads as follows: Question: We ask you, Comrade Honecker, to set out for the readers of KOMUNIST the fundamental strategic aims of the economic and social development of the GDR, especially with regard to the use of science and technology, and how the GDR is preparing for entry into the 21st century.

Answer: We are shaping the developed socialist society in the GDR in accordance with a clear long-term idea. It has been constantly developed further since the beginning of the 70's through the creative application of Marxist-Leninist theory to the concrete historical and national conditions in our country. We always cosidered it our main task to accelerate scientific-technological progress and economic performance increase in order to ensure the steady improvement of the working and living conditions of the working people.

The 11th SED Congress in 1986 also attached central importance to this policy of the unity of economic and social policy. The decisions on the economic strategy with a view to the year 2000 initiated a qualitatively new phase in our social development.

This is primarily concerned with combining the advantages of socialism even more effectively with the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution, and with continuing to reveal the humanistic and social character of socialism in palpable form for everybody. This tried-and-tested practice is motivating people's actions, releasing new driving forces, promoting the innovative spirit and creative initiative, and mobilizing the working people's desire to perform well. For this reason too, we regard the unity of economic and social policy as the essence of the economic strategy and the party's main battlefield.

We are creating the material basis for this with the comprehensive transition of the national economy to intensive extended reproduction, with broad use of the scientific and technical revolution. The efficiency of the national economy must grow more quickly than the expenditure necessary for that purpose. This demands that we should develop the decisive key technologies—such as, for example, microelectronics, information processing, flexible automation and biotechnology—at an accelerated rate, and put them into use in the whole national economy with great consistency and high economic efficiency.

We envisage an increase in national income of 25 percent and in net industrial production and labor productivity of 50 percent in the present 5-year plan, from 1986 to 1990. We need this growth, in order to fulfill our social policy program and other important tasks in the further shaping of the developed socialist society. To give one example, we created around 2.8 million apartments through new building and modernization between 1971 and 1987. With an annual growth of over 200,000 apartments we will solve the housing issue as a social problem by 1990.

Our starting positions for the accelerated development and use of key technologies are solid. We are already capable of producing 32-bit computers and 256-kilobit memory circuits, with which the GDR has managed to reach world standards. We intend to set up 85,000 to 90,000 CAD/CAM workstations by 1990. Production of 1-and 4-megabit memory circuits is being prepared.

Of course, this process will not be over in 1990, and the 90's will certainly set new, higher requirements. This demands, in particular, preparation of the young generation for these higher requirements, training of young people in the sphere of science and technology, the establishing of increasingly close links between science and technology, but also the further development of socialist economic integration, and the strenghthening of economic and scientific-technological cooperation with all socialist states.

A fundamental element in our social strategy is the further growth and improvement of socialist democracy at all levels of public life. The basic right to a share in determining and shaping matters, which is rooted in our constitution, is a social reality in our country.

Under the conditions of the scientific and technical revolution too, the person, with his labor, his abilities and his needs, is at the center. Of course, this process is not being accomplished without problems. Every structural change, the introduction of new equipment and alteration of the profile of production throws up new questions and problems, which are often linked with personal consequences for the working people. Our principle, "join in with working, planning and governing," requires that all questions and problems which affect the work and life of the working people should be discussed thoroughly with them, and that they should take a conscious part in shaping them. The working people exercise this basic right through the trade unions, a broad share in decision-making in the enterprises and shared responsibility at local level, in a committed manner.

Supported by the firm trust between the party and people, by the creative strength and initiatives of working peoples we are preparing ourselves for entering the next century optimistically and with the necessary sense of reality.

Question: A wave of reexaminations and changes today affects a whole series of socialist countries. Comrade Honecker, how do you regard these changes? (Does not the necessity exist even in the GDR, with all the successes achieved and the undoubted stability of its development, of reexamining and changing some of the basic principles and values of your society?) [ADN parentheses]

Answer: We are following developments in the socialist countries very attentively and consider them extraordinarily significant. It is a matter of speeding up the socioeconomic development, further raising people's standard of living and at the same time making socialism still more attractive in peaceful competition with the capitalist system.

For decades we have been working together with the socialist countries on still better tapping the potential latent in socialism. In this we exchange experiences and learn from one another. The development processes currently taken in hand in the socialist states will further improve conditions for effective, mutual cooperation. The GDR supports the efforts by the fraternal states to increase the performance of their national economies by a further deepening and a higher level of cooperation. We are also experiencing the same support.

All the experiences of socialist states have so far shown that the building of socialism is a constant process of the creative search for the best means of solving newly arising questions and problems. Of course, it depends on each country reacting flexibly and in good time to the new challenges in accordance with concrete national and international conditions.

As far as the GDR is concerned the working out of our strategic concept for the shaping of the developed socialist society was at no time regarded as a completed task. Rather, we start from the premise that this, as it says in the SED program, is a process of far-reaching political, economic, social, intellecual and cultural changes. In this sense we have constantly had to find new solutions in order to continue our policy of the unity of economic and social policy with continuity.

That for years we have been treading the path of the comprehensive intensification of production as well as orienting ourselves toward the swifter application of key technologies in the national economy, has proven itself in this. The forming of the combines proved to be a significant step. These are the most effective organizational structures in the economy under our conditions. In the meantime we have also gained positive experiences with our measure for raising the autonomy of combines and factories.

Above all, since the 70's, a system of planning and management has been created in our country with great commitment, and this corresponds to the requirements of intensively extended reproduction and the scientific and technical revolution. Today we are faced with the task of constantly further developing the system and of perfecting it.

As you see, in our country too there is a series of issues which our party constantly analyzes and thoroughly reexamines. Again and again we have found up-to-date decisions. We will continue to make changes, and these will be made within the framework of socialism. Our most important benchmark is production for the benefit of people. In this our mainstay is the leading role of the party of the working class, as well as cooperation with all parties and mass organizations belonging to the GDR's National Front, and the active and creative collaboration of working people in deciding on social matters.

Question: In your opinion, what are the basic characteristics of the current situation of the international workers' movement, and what are its prospects?

Answer: The international workers' movement is currently engaged in adjusting to new problems and tasks, which deep change and new realities in the world bring with them. In this I see the basic and most important factor in our current development.

Let us take the central problem at the moment of averting a nuclear inferno and securing a lasting peace. That is only possible if reason, realism, and the recognition that in the nuclear and space age there is no acceptable alternative to peaceful coexistence, comprehensive, agreed security and regulated cooperation prevail. And that despite the fact that the opposition between the system, classes, as well as social and political contradictions will continue to exist and be fought.

Today, all parties and organizations representing the workers' movement are to a great extent agreed on this. They are also in basic agreement that such international conditions must be created which are conducive to the solving of other global problems, e.g., problems of underdevelopment, the maintenance of a natural environment, as well as the world-wide effects of the scientific and technical revolution. This basic agreement was impressively expressed at the Moscow meeting of representatives of parties and movements in November last year on the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

At the international scientific conference "Karl Marx and Our Times—the Fight for Peace and Social Progress," held in Berlin in April 1983, I described the securing of peace as the goal with the highest priority of the entire workers' movement, regardless of what point of view their parties and organizations have on this matter or of life in their countries. Within a relatively short period of time life has confirmed that it is not only necessary, but also possible, to hold a constructive dialogue on the issues of the fight for peace and social progress, and to find a common language.

Today, the international workers' movement will above all do justice to its historical role in that it gives validity in its thoughts and deeds to those issues on which survival and the securing of other conditions for humanity's existence depend. In this respect one can give a positive assessment of the prospects.

Of course, the role of the workers' movement does not end there. Its parties and organizations have tasks which are in many respects new to solve in the interests of working people and peoples. They are fighting for democracy, the strengthening of national independence, social progress, and socialism under a great variety of conditions.

The communist and workers' parties in socialist countries are facing up to the challenges of the scientific and technical revolution in order to use its results for the benefit of the peoples. In the nonsocialist world the progressive forces are searching for ways toward progress under conditions in which far-reaching social changes are taking place. Communists, social democrats, and trade unionists are discussing and putting forward alternatives to the course of the conservative forces of monopoly capital, which are trying to shift the effects of

the scientific and technical revolution and the processes of capitalist crisis onto working people in their own and in the developing countries.

We consider it a good sign that the interest in constructive and open discussion between parties in bilateral and multilateral forms is increasing. In general this has been the experience of our party, which has been having an increasing number of contacts and talks on theoretical and political issues with communist, socialist, social democrat, revolutionary democrat, and other democratic parties.

In general we support everything which is conducive to the exchange of opinions, experiences, and cooperation between communist parties. We are of the opinion that it can only be good if the international communist movement strengthens its independent, constructive contribution through dialogue and cooperation with other progressive and peace-loving forces.

For a long time our party has started from the premise that the deepening of international cooperation between communists must be based on the independence and autonomy of each party in working and carrying out its policies. Differences in approach and possible differences of opinion must not adversely affect the struggle and responsibility for tasks which can only be solved together. In our opinion conditions have improved in this respect, and it puts us in a confident mood. On this issue there was complete agreement between myself and Comrade J.B. Tito right up to the last year of his life.

Question: By recently signing the joint document "The Battle of the Ideologies and Joint Security" with the SPD, the SED has without doubt taken a step in the direction of creating a new situation among the European left. What forces do you see today within the European left, and how do you assess their prospects?

Answer: This document was jointly agreed on between the Academy of Social Sciences in the SED Central Committee and the Basic Values Commission of the SPD, published last August. It is a result of the dialogue which was held at various levels between representatives of both our parties over a long period of time. This dialogue is concerned with issues which today not only concern the entire workers' movement and left-wing forces, but all forces interested in peace.

In this document we see a further confirmation of the fact that communists and social democrats can and must be important partners when, in the interests of peace, it helps a policy of moderation, reason and realism prevail. Both parties agree that it is better to get along peaceably with one another than to have a joint demise, and that security can no longer be achieved against one another, but only together.

Thus it was possible to find together viable paths to disarmament, to the further development of peaceful coexistence, and to mutually advantageous cooperation between states. Of course, this is particularly true for Europe where both parties work close to the dividing line between both social systems and the two strongest military coalitions.

In my opinion the document gains particularly importance and strength of conviction by the fact that the contradictions in the world can no longer be talked away. The basic ideological and political divergencies between both parties which continue to exist were not glossed over. Indeed, it is an important basic concern of the document to make the contribution to answering questions of how these contradictions and divergencies have to be carried out today in such a way that they do not hinder necessary cooperation on the issues which touch everyone to the same extent, but promote and strengthen it.

Question: Relations between the SFRY and the GDR are regularly assessed by both sides as friendly, good, and successful. Comrade Honecker, how do you see the further development of these relations, and in what area can they be further developed?

Answer: Today, over 30 years after forming diplomatic relations, we can indeed look back on a continuous and successful development of bilateral relations between the GDR and the SFRY. Our countries are bound by a traditional friendship. Cooperation between our parties, states, and peoples is based on a firm foundation of laid down principles and a developed system of treaties. At the same time this is a stable basis for the continuous further development of our cooperation.

The further shaping of comprehensive contacts and multifacetted cooperation on policies, the economy, education, culture, science, and sport lies in the interest of both countries and serves the common cause of peace and socialism. We regard the firm will and the readiness of both sides to continue to develop relations in all areas and to shape them in an increasingly advantageous manner for our peoples, as decisive. This basic direction for our cooperation was jointly confirmed over the last few years in meetings held up to the highest level.

Our countries possess the real preconditions for ensuring stable and dynamic development of economic, scientific and technical cooperation. The GDR and the SFRY are producing a considerable volume in their exchange of goods, with an increasing variety of forms and methods of economic relations. We attach increasing importance to cooperation on the basis of long-term accords, specialization, and collaboration arrangements, both in production and in science and research, will be deepened. [sentence as received]

I am convinced that a program of economic and scientific and technical cooperation between the GDR and the SFRY up to the year 2000, which we have resolved to establish will be appropriate for opening up new fields for cooperation, raising it to a qualitatively higher level and, thus, consolidating the material foundations of our relations. At the same time, it remains our endeavor to continue with that which has been tried and tested in our cooperation, and to cultivate, maintain, and expand everything which has grown so richly in our relations.

Question: We ask you for an assessment of relations between the LCY and the SED. What, in your view, characterizes them especially, and where do you see opportunities for enriching these relations?

Answer: Proven cooperation of many years' exists between the SED and the LCY. It has its roots in the good traditions of the internationalist collaboration between German and Yugoslav Communists, and is developing in keeping with the precepts and principles which were agreed with the unforgettable Josip Broz Tito. This cooperation will also be expanded and enriched in future, as a determining factor in the two countries' overall relations.

I recall with pleasure my official visit to Yugoslavia in the autumn of 1985 and my talks with Comrade Vidoje Zarkovic, then president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium. In subsequent years, too, representatives of our parties have conducted an open and useful exchange of views, primarily on the most topical international issues, and simultaneously on experiences in socialist construction and relations between our countries. Despite specific conditions, traditions, and different paths, each of these occasions revealed a high and growing level of agreement, mutual understanding, and readiness for joint action. The various contacts between our parties, the exchange of study delegations and lecturers, and the fruitful development of town-twinning relations—between the capitals of Berlin and Belgrade, and between Suhl and Titograd and Dresden and Skopje, among others—have their firm place in the living process of cooperation, which our party wishes to continue in the tried and tested manner.

CSSR Call for Zone of Trust Supported

LD292230 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1722 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin 29 Feb (ADN)—The GDR supports the CSSR's proposal, submitted by Milos Jakes, the general secretary of the CPCZ, for the creation of a zone of trust, cooperation and goodneighborly relations along the dividing line between the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries. It is a further welcome initiative by a Warsaw Pact member directed toward the consolidation of peace, stability, and trust in Europe, the GDR Foreign Minister spokesman, Ambassador Wolfgang Meyer, said.

Following the signing of the INF treaty, it was not a matter of taking further steps to lessen confrontation and increase security in this extremely sensitive geographical region. The initiative of the CSSR, which in the field of military detente matched the well-known and internationally highly regarded proposals of the GDR and the CSSR for the creation of nuclear and chemical weapons free zones in central Europe, took account of this.

On the basis of its integrated nature, which in addition to the military aspects also embraced political, economic, ecological, and humanitarian aspects, it would, if implemented, also provide an important impetus for the continuation of the CSCE process and for the creation of a worldwide comprehensive system of international peace and security.

Honecker Condolences on Soviet Aircraft Crash

AU021227 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 1 Mar 88 p 2

[ND report: "GDR Condolences on Aircraft Accident in the Soviet Union"]

[Text] East Berlin (ND)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, has sent the following telegram to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, and Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium:

Please accept my sincere condolences on the tragic aircraft accident at Sugut Airport.

I ask you to convey my heartfelt sympathy to the families and relatives of the victims.

Erich Honecker,

general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council

HSWP's Berecz Receives NATO Delegation

LD030333 Budapest MTI in English 2055 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 2 (MTI)—On Wednesday in Budapest Janos Berecz, member of the HSWP Political Committee met the delegation of the North Atlantic General Assembly paying an official visit to Hungary.

At the meeting held in open atmosphere Janos Berecz gave information on the HSWP Central Committee's social-economical advancement programme which was adopted last July and spoke on ideological questions, the leading role of the party and on the further development of the political institutional system, and the dialogue emerging in Hungary. He elaborated the questions of the cooperation, and division of labour between the party, the National Assembly and the government. Responding to the questions of the Western representatives he explained that the different interests prevailing in the economy are also reflected in the ideological and political sphere. Accordingly, in Hungary pluralism in ideas and politics exists. However—according to the Hungarian stand—this does not contradict the principle of the one-party system.

Ton Frinking, president of the North Atlantic General Assembly and head of the delegation gave a lecture during the day on the development of East-West relations at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. At the meeting of the association for political science several leaders of the Budapest diplomatic corps were also present.

Analysing the situation of the European disarmament and arms reduction, the common interests of the countries of the continent Ton Frinking emphasized that the two opposing blocks—NATO and the Warsaw treaty—should be kept in balance of power by disarmament at the lowest possible level of arms.

Reviewing the East-West economic cooperation developments he pointed out that the developed capitalist countries are interested in the development of stable economic relations with their Eastern counterparts. In this context—on behalf of the North Atlantic Assembly—he promoted the settlement of the contacts between the Common Market and the CMEA and expressed the hope that the agreement between the EEC and Hungary is concluded as soon as possible.

Mentioning humanitarian questions Ton Frinking especially stressed the importance of free international travel serving the better understanding.

The head of the delegation met Ivan T. Berend, president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. At the informal meeting the situation of the Hungarian economy was discussed.

MSZMP's Nemeth Comments on FRG Relations

AU031111 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 27 Feb 88 p 4

[Report on interview with Miklos Nemeth, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, following his talks in Bonn, by Sandor Gyori: "Statement of the Secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee to NEPSZABADSAG;" place and date not given]

[Text] Miklos Nemeth, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, said at the beginning of the interview at the end of his talks in Bonn: "My present visit did not aim at preparing business agreements; traditional practice is to brief our partners from time to time on the most important tasks facing Hungarian economic policy.

"This practice is of twofold direct benefit. On the one hand, we obtain support for our endeavors by means of economic diplomacy. On the other hand, this is an opportunity for us to assess our partners' opinions on our planned steps. My negotiating partners expressed their sympathy and appreciation for our efforts to continue Hungary's reform policy and to improve our economic situation.

"The political and economic leaders of the FRG are aware of our difficulties and evaluate our situation realistically. It is my impression that despite the difficulties, the confidence in our country and policies is unchanged. Our partners think it is necessary for us to preserve this trust, to consistently implement our announced social and economic program in future, even if this is temporarily accompanied by sacrifices and difficulties."

Miklos Nemeth described the development of Hungarian-FRG relations as smooth. He added that his hosts regard bilateral cooperation as having further important reserves that can be used, mainly with a view to our making the conditions of economic and market regulations more attractive to our foreign partners.

Miklos Nemeth said the following: "Our planned measure for 1988—the formulation and the coming enactment of the partnership law—aroused the most lively interest. In the opinion of responsible representatives of West German business circles, a qualitatively new stage in the flow of active capital into Hungary can start within the framework of this new law. My negotiating partners stressed their mutifaceted interest in Hungary. They pointed out, however, that the reaction of the Hungarian partners to West German initiative is not always fast enough."

Varkonyi's Arrival in Thailand Reported

LD021053 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0900 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi has arrived in Thailand. The head of Hungarian diplomacy will hold talks with several leading Thai personages about the development of economic and commercial relations. Thailand is the fourth stop on the Hungarian foreign minister's Asian Tour.

Grosz Tours Shoe Factory in County Vas

LD030236 Budapest MTI in English 2000 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 2 (MTI)—On his second day of his working trip to County Vas, Karoly Grosz, member of the Political Committee of the HSWP and the president of the Ministerial Council visited the Sabaria shoe factory of Szombathely. As it was made clear by the briefing given by Imre Horvath executive-director, conditions of economic management of the shoe factory with an annual production value of 2,300 million forints have become difficult. Karoly Grosz exchanged words with several male and female workers primarily inquiring about their personal opinion on the future of the company and what they could expect in the formation of their living conditions.

The head of government then visited a pensioners' club which was followed by a walk in the city centre. He entered several shops and talked about the experience related to prices and demands with the workers. He examined a child's shoe which has a new price tag of 640 forints instead of the previous 180 forints. Such a level of price difference can not be held for long, he pointed out, and as explanation he added that the government prepared for the introduction of the new tax system and for the modification of the price relations in a very short time. And regardless of the care in examining the expected social response with some goods, such as child clothing, the effect of removing price subsidies and the introduction of turnover tax the combined effects could not be assessed precisely in advance. The people are justified in mentioning such prices. The government—according to its original decision—reviews the collected practices and makes every effort for the implementation of the necessary corrections. Most probably the right solution would not be, he pointed out, the reduction of the turnover tax rate because it would jeopardize the basic aims of the tax system but rather ways should be found for the further increase of the social benefits.

The president of the Ministerial Council met the county's leading political workers and propagandists in the afternoon. In his briefing Karoly Grosz spoke on the international processes which influence the internal constructive work, on the actual questions of the domestic policy, on the preparations of the national party conference, and governmental support of the efforts serving the renewal of the economy. The experience of the two days was summarized as follows: 'It is clear from the words of people living here that there is willingness to act, openness, unconcealed expression of the problems and respect for the existing values'.

These characteristics are especially valuable today because in the present public mood, other, opposing manifestations can be frequently observed.

Gives Interview

LD030303 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Karoly Grosz by "Evening Magazine" correspondent Gabor Bankuti in County Vas on 2 March—recorded]

[Text] [Bankuti] Your visit to County Vas is one among all the other visits but I imagine that there is some sort of symbolic significance in the fact that you have also visited a border crossing station here on the western border.

[Grosz] It is an organic part of the thought-out government policy that it consciously develops tourism, because it is an important part of a country's image that people should not only read all over the world about Hungary but that they should also see how people live here.

In the spirit of our earlier decision, it is our endeavor that more and more Hungarians should become acquainted with the world, should spend their free time abroad, should rest abroad, and should be able to compare development, values, and, as part of this, should see the weaknesses as well. Tourism has now grown very rapidly and consequently it is important that crossing the border should take place in civilized circumstances. We were not prepared for this large volume of tourism and are at present looking for ways and means of speeding up traffic, simplifying the procedures, and making the facilities for exchanging money continuously available, so that tourists will wait as little as possible and, thus, suffer the least possible annoyance.

The Hungarian Government has very good relations with the Austrian Government. I am putting this in this way because it is not just a question of having an almost constant, very valuable, dialogue with Chancellor Vranitzky; there is also close cooperation between the ministers and various state officials, and we would like it if in the future these relations would become even more effective, economical, rational, and constructive.

We have a great joint undertaking, the joint organizing of the 1995 World Fair. Vienna and Budapest must work together on this and we would like planned preparations to get under way. By the way, it is not only Austrian citizens who enter along this stretch of the border but also many people from the FRG.

The volume of tourism from the FRG has reached 1 million per year and will increase further in the future. Thus, this is a gate that is one of the channels for our foreign political endeavors, our economic cooperation, and the deepening of human and social relations. This is why it is important that one should gain impressions here and should seek better solutions.

[Bankuti] I think that relations are best with the Austrians, and I mean relations among citizens as well. After all, there is no visa requirement between the two countries. Do you expect that this might also extend to other countries one day?

[Grosz] It is more than likely that this will happen with the FRG within the not too distant future. Measures have been taken in the FRG. I have to formulate it this way because this has not depended on us. We have suggested and offered that the visa requirement should be abolished altogether. They have not yet been able to accept this. However, the fact that the visa requirement has been abolished as regards diplomatic passports, that the situation has been made easier in connection with those working long-term on foreign missions, is already a significant step forward. We hope that the visa requirement will also be abolished for mass tourism in the foreseeable future. This will not depend on us.

[Bankuti] Let us also speak about domestic affairs, particularly since rather a lot was said about these matters in the course of your visit to factories where you spoke with workers who had a few observations about the standard of living, prices, the situation of young people, and the situation of old people—you visited a convalescent home as well. In the shoe factory you said that the leadership was also shocked by the fact that the preliminary calculations were not accurate enough and that prices had risen more than the finanical calculations had indicated.

[Grosz] We prepared the introduction of this tax system and the modification of the proportions between the prices, which went with it, in a very short time. Now, however carefully our officials worked in the course of the preparatory phase, it has to be said quite frankly that the end result is not perfect. We had not even thought that it would be perfect but, as I said in the factory as well, particularly as regards children's clothing, the development of prices and profit ratios had brought about tensions. These are matters that the population rightly raises: It is untenable that an article of clothing for children should cost more than one for adults. Take shoes, for example. The analysis of this issue is now taking place, practically item by item. From another aspect, we decided as early as last year that after a few weeks the government would put on its agenda the experiences and lessons of these measures and where it is necessary it will have the strength and the courage to make corrections.

The introduction of the new system of taxation was a very considerable undertaking. This is something that we were aware of from the very beginning. Well, we gathered rather a lot of experience from other countries where the same system of taxation was introduced, for example, in Turkey, where it was introduced on 1 January 1987, and they told us that it had been necessary to correct and refine very many things.

To get back to what we were talking about in the factory, the situation as regards children's clothing is that we simultaneously abolished the price support and put on the 25 percent turnover tax, which is in line with the normal practice. These two things together represent a burden that is very difficult to countervail with social policy payments, although it was worked out to the last filler that the social policy provisions would cover the cost of the price increases as regards children. This has been worked out even if there are debates about it. However, the population cannot come to terms with the real problem, which we did foresee, namely that beyond this, we planned a 2-2.5 percent reduction in consumption is different, this amounts to not this percentage reduction but a much larger one and they find it much more difficult to live with.

[Bankuti] This has affected people with children most of all.

[Grosz] Yes, that is quite right. What we did not foresee is that this would affect them to quite this extent. Now, this raises a problem that has to be solved. Now there is a debate among the specialists, and it will soon be submitted to the government, namely about whether we should reduce the turnover tax—after all, it would be possible to reduce the tax by 25-15 percent, even to zero—or whether we should increase the support given to families. It is very important to make a decision on this because we now have to develop a system that will be force for a long time.

It would be against the system if we gradually reduced the turnover tax just because we were now unable to solve a problem. This is not the main direction of movement. Thus, a social tension must be eased but if possible in a way that should be a part of a long-term development plan and should fit into a certain construction. I have to tell you quite frankly that there is social pressure not only as regards articles of children's clothing but in many areas. If we were now to start to develop and reorganize the tax rates in every sphere, then we would not have achieved anything; there would have been no point in starting the whole thing and the whole concept toward which we are trying to advance will have been for nothing, just a dream. So this has to be thought out very calmly, very soberly. I do not think that the government lacks the strength to draw precise stock and I know that it has the courage to make changes where it is necessary and where life shows that changes are needed.

For us this is not a question of prestige; rationality and common sense must be in accord here and they must dominate. But we must be very careful not to give up the future for momentary tensions, because it is impossible to get out of this hole by constant compromises even where these are not needed. If we do that, unquestionably in the end everything will return to the old grooves and in 5 years we will have to start again, from a much worse position, to do what we have now undertaken.

SZOT's Baranyai Lists 1988 Trade Union Tasks

AU021412 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 20 Feb 88 p 1-3

[Correspondents' report on a report submitted by Tibor Baranyai, SZOT secretary general, at the session the council held at its Budapest headquarters on 19 February: "Tibor Baranyai—We Are Contributing to Development by Means of Increased Representation of Interests"]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of his speech, Tibor Baranyai, secretary general of the National Trade Union Council [SZOT], said the following: "At its first session in 1988, it has become the SZOT's task to indicate—through its debates and its position, and by accepting the annual working plan—the main direction and tasks that the activities of the entire Hungarian trade union movement should follow. We have already begun, and in 1988 we hope to consistently continue to further develop and renew the work done by the trade union and adjust it to the new tasks and the greater requirements. In all the areas that concern our members we hope to improve and develop our activities in protecting and representing their interests—activities that we carry out together with them to implement the MSZMP development program and the government's economic stabilization program. Our success in better adapting our movement to fulfilling its mission will be the best way for us to serve the cause of overcoming our difficulties, the progress of our entire people and nation, and the building of socialism." [passage omitted]

"We must speak openly about the fact that in 1987 the background mood of our work was not most favorable in every respect. It is a well-known fact that there is an ongoing international attack directed against trade unions. Capitalism is leading a coordinated international attack against the left wing and particularly against the trade unions. This also affects how trade unions are judged domestically. In addition to this, certain groups are trying from abroad to create a public mood and spread confusion directed against the Hungarian trade unions. These groups encourage members to quit the trade unions; propose the establishment of new, "independent" trade unions; and, in this way, also try to weaken not only the trade unions, but also our society's political system.

"In addition to these phenomena, it should also be seen that well-intended and just criticism of our members is also increasing decisively—criticism which we should always treat seriously and to which we should react in a differentiated manner on the basis of its content and aims. We should distinguish between people who make well-intended critical remarks—people who struggle for the same causes that we do, but who propose solutions that are different from the prevailing ones—and people whose efforts do not serve the cause. We should also speak openly about the fact that dissatisfaction resulting from the difficulties often falls on the trade unions. We are responsible for the country and its future to the extent we are present when all the important decisions concerning the workers are made. However, we cannot be held responsible for everything. In the future we will continue to provide an opportunity for critical remarks and, if necessary, will forward them to the right place.

"Through its opinions, the formulation of its position, and its proposals for initiatives, the SZOT presidium also contributed to working the 1988 people's economic plan. We regard the current year as the decisive stage in the stabilizing process. We sincerely support every sensible effort that contributes to our economic development," Baranyai said. [passage omitted].

Speaking about the experiences of the first part of 1988, Baranyai said that the beginning of 1988 was characterized by specific features that were different from the features of previous years. The experiences concerning production are contradictory. The conditions are partly favorable. [passage omitted]

According to Baranyai, there are also unfavorable experiences. The required activities in the area of import substitution are not perceptible; the conclusion of agreements concerning our ruble turnover calculated in rubles overdue; the expected decline in export opportunities could cause marketing difficulties; and monetary restrictions in the banking sphere have caused considerable solvency disturbances. As a result of these difficulties, the majority of the enterprises do not have an approved annual plan at their disposal, and there is a danger that improvisations, instead of well-founded decisions, will prevail in enterprise management practices.

Under these conditions, the trade unions should focus their attention in particular on strengthening the protection and promotion of members' interests. As Baranyai said, "Many people perceive a contradiction in our support of an economic program that places heavy burdens on our members while, at the same time, we promote the strengthening of the protection and promotion of their interests. Some people have labelled us opponents of the reform because of our efforts to protect the workers' interests; the very same people, however, also hold us responsible for the protection of these interests.

The fundamental position of the trade unions is that they cannot observe the development of the country's future with indifference. Under present conditions, we think that improving the promotion of interests will most effectively contribute to development because by means of such improvement we will be able to relieve the tensions hindering development and solve human and communal problems. Our members have a greater need than ever before for the protection and promotion of the interests to be strengthened because they have to face increasingly new tensions.

"The fact that a more sensible management of manpower and the general economic difficulties of some enterprises force the economic units to release workers is a cause for worry, the extent of which cannot yet be precisely foreseen. One of our basic requirements is to evaluate the expected employment tensions prior to all economic measures, and to take the results into consideration when making the decisions and scheduling their implementation.

"Trade union organs should, in every case, concretely verify whether a planned staff reduction is necessary, or whether efficiency can be increased in some other way. In order to alleviate employment difficulties, government organs have established an employment fund. The trade unions require this system to work more perceptibly and continuously in order to create more jobs and support retraining and reemployment. During the unemployment period, the living conditions of the workers and their families should be guaranteed regardless of the number of people who lost their jobs at the same time. This is why we proposed that the government should cancel the restriction of the maximum of 10 workers eligible to receive employment aid. We are already speaking of a lack of understanding as a result of the delay in taking measures, and we are emphatically requesting the government organs to act more quickly when the matter concerns alleviating the difficult conditions of the workers and their families.

"The system of rehabilitation and liquidation is based on a new understanding developed in 1986. Only a few enterprises and economic organizations were liquidated or rehabilitated in 1987. The trade unions do not support inefficient economic management, either; but they are primarily advocating measures to improve economic management. Rehabilitation or liquidation can be used only as a last resort." [passage omitted]

Baranyai then stressed the following: "The ideas of the trade unions on wage reform should be developed during the first half of 1988. [passage omitted]

"What is required is that work places should carry out the very modest annual wage increases according to the locally prevailing economic management possibilities. Wage increases on grossed-up wages should be secured in a way that the increases should comprise an incentive without causing a deterioration in the net wage levels according to performance, qualification, working circumstances, and working conditions.

"Further trade union tasks concerning the income tax will remain in effect. The basic organizations should continue to attentively follow the deduction of advance payments on taxes and the accounting of allowances, help publicize the mechanism of the tax system so that it becomes known and understood, and discover the difficulties and irregularities existing in regulations. These tasks should be continuously elaborated in order to enable us to make proposals aimed at the necessary modifications of these regulations." [passage omitted]

Baranyai stressed the following: "Assessing the population's capacity to carry burdens and its political tolerance, we consider the 15 percent increase in consumer prices planned for 1988 as the maximum limit! because this amount of increase is in harmony with the stipulations concerning real wages and real income. At the same time we are taking into account the possibility that the planned increase in market prices will be difficult to maintain even in the presence of the strong influence of governmental pricing policy. The experiences of the social control carried out by the trade unions also point in this direction and foretell the existence of the strong intentions of enterprises to increase prices in many groups of goods with unrestricted prices beginning with the second quarter of 1988. This is why we oppose any further proposals concerning central price increases. In case consumer prices significantly exceed the planned level, the SZOT will have to take appropriate measures to counteract this." [passage omitted]

As the SZOT general secretary pointed out, the trade unions consider it important to maintain the level of the supply of goods, improve the quality of goods and services, and enlarge the selection of cheap goods. In times of declining real wages and incomes, these measures have political significance. The absence or a limited selection of cheap products could endanger the daily existence of certain strata and groups.

Baranyai said the following: "The trade unions have so far regarded the on-the-job welfare, social, and cultural assistance as an important area in social policy. Under the difficult conditions, however, its role will further increase in many respects. On the basis of the experiences from the beginning of the year, we see that the previous level of social assistance is endangered at a considerable number of enterprises." [passage omitted]

Baranyai spoke in detail about the social policy "package deal" worth 27 billion forints, a plan that was prepared with the participation of the trade unions and whose largest part will contribute to supporting families with children in 1988. In spite of this, though acknowledging the extension of the child rearing assistance to 2 years, workers still criticize the sharp increase in the costs of child rearing and the price of children's articles. After a long debate we succeeded in agreeing on pensioners above 70 years of age receiving compensation that will match the planned 15 percent increase in prices and that in the case of pensioners under 70, the automatic supplementary increase by 2 percent together with a monthly supplement of 210 forints will on the average result in 6-8 percent compensation. The fact that disabled people will receive a reduction in income tax can also be regarded as an achievement, but the fact that there is no progress in the area of employment rehabilitation remains a constant problem. Acting on the SZOT

initiative, the government made a decision on the so-called general mood improving measures to the limit of a framework sum of about 500 million forints in order to improve the situation of certain social groups. These measures, like, for example, modifying pensioners' travel allowances, introducing disability payments as a citizen's right, and others, were favorably received among the people effected. Issues like who will benefit from the elimination of television fees, or the reason why the monthly allowance for diabetics will be given only to people above 70 years of age have caused much excitement. We should clearly say that at the moment only this much could be included within the framework of the 500 million forints.

"Our position on the supply and distribution of medicines, and within this on increasing fees for medicines is unchanged. We should review and modernize the entire system of supplying and distributing medicines; this cannot be preceeded by any hasty change in the fees. We should not risk government credibility, which in this case would also concern the prestige of the trade unions. We think that inconsistencies in medical supplies cannot be permitted; therefore, we think that complex measures can be implemented only after adequate preparation and in coordination with the further development of social security."

The Council of Ministers will in the near future deal with further developing social security and with ideas concerning the reorganization of the system of pensions. Baranyai stressed that according to the position of the SZOT presidium, legal guarantees should be created to preserve the value of social security services and it will be necessary to secure a level of retirement payments proportional to living expenses. He said the following: "We think it is necessary to prepare a long-term complex social security program; we are in favor of separating social security from the state budget; and we call for distinguishing between social security payments on the basis of one's entitlement to them and social security payments based on social policy decisions."

Several pieces of information on reorganizing the system of pensions have also become available and the public has reacted to them in different ways. The SZOT presidium repeatedly discussed the plans concerning the modification of the system of pensions. Baranya said the following: "We repeatedly emphasize that we can only accept a change that will, on the one hand, provide reassuring and clear guarantees to perceptibly improve the situation of retired people with low pensions, preserve the value of their pensions and, on the other hand, will secure adequate harmony between employment policy goals, the age limit on retirement, the employment of pensioners, and the value-creating processes of the economy." [passage omitted]

Baranyai also spoke about the fact that the trade unions are urging and supporting the acceleration of technical and technologica! progress and the improvement of the human conditions of technological development. Only these can ensume a safe and lasting road to progress. We should examine the effects of modern technology on working conditions. We should pay close attention to the activities of creative people, innovators, and inventors, and suitably acknowledge their achievements. We regard it as important to implement the recently made decisions on improving the conditions of the technological intelligentsia. [passage omitted]

Baranyai spoke about the fact that professional groups have come to the fore with the intention of quitting the existing organizational frameworks. Dialogues have commenced with those wishing to establish independent frameworks. Baranyai stressed the following: "We should keep an open mind toward these efforts because they promote the renewal of the movement and in most cases they point to the fact that there are lags and debts in our promotion of interests, and in particular in our promotion of stratum, group, professional, and minority interests. We are making efforts to preserve the unity of the movement; however, we must not refuse to consider the creation of specific, multifaceted, and colored organizational solutions and sections. We should treat this as an opportunity which, if we are able to use it well, will enable us to increase the membership of the trade union movement." [passage omitted]

Economic Leaders' Council Meets in Budapest

LD021058 Budapest MTI in English
0955 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, March 2 (MTI)—The Council of Economic Leaders affiliated to the National Planning Office serves better agreement between economic management and the companies. The recently set up body will discuss several major economic issues every three months. The first meeting discussed the 1988 economic tasks and the experiences to date.

Erno Kemenes, state secretary of the National Planning Office, said that a turn has to be attained in Hungarian economy in the knowledge that the past year was less favourable than planned. He stressed that the resources are limited: There is no increase in manpower, investments and the consumption of the population is declining, and austerity also has to be shown for imports. According to the state secretary it is doubtful that economy can fulfil more under such conditions only through efficiency and quality improvement.

Evaluating the experiences of 1988 to date, Erno Kemenes said that the difference between the good and the poorer companies has not become unanimous so far, in spite of the introduction of the tax reform. For instance, surplus earnings have originated at several companies through the price and tax system changes, which will be withdrawn by the government. At the same time he stressed that the economic leadership continues

to adhere to the aim that opportunities of poorer companies be restricted and those of better companies increase. The government hopes to attain this mainly with monetary means, and by strengthening the selection effect of the market.

For the most part, representatives of the companies set forth their complaints, and criticism of the economic management. The director-general of the Trust of Dairy Industry Companies said that the population should be informed far more clearly as it is still not aware that the country is in a crisis. He termed it doubtful that the planned 15 per cent consumer's price rise can be observed. Even if this is unsuccessful, said the director-general of the trust, wages should not be raised in a degree surpassing the planned as that would cause excessive inflation pressure. The director-general of the Hungarian Aluminium Industry Trust said that the government should handle 10-15 major companies individually. However, a cooperative president rejected this proposal, pointing out there was a similar effort in Hungarian economy in the 1970s, which proved unsuccessful. The leader of the country's largest firm, the National Petroleum and Gas Industry Trust, which employs more than 40,000 people, requested greater publicness [as received] from the government.

Briefs

Company Director Sentenced

Budapest, March 2 (MTI)—Pal Tokodi, former executive director of the Budapest Kontakta spare parts factory has been sentenced to 4 years imprisonment by the Pest Central Regional Court. According to the verdict, in 1980 Tokodi filed an irrigation sprinkler patented by a Western firm as his own patent and wanted to manufacture the sprinkler as a new product of his company. Since his co-workers rejected the idea Tokodi sold the documents which were prepared in the company as an innovation to an agricultural cooperative for 800,000 forints. The case caused a 280,000 forints company loss. In addition Tokodi's resort house and the house of his father were redecorated at the expense of the company to a value of 220,000 forints. Use of the company car in violation of the regulations caused a further loss of 140,000 forints. A further 160,000 ft loss was caused by the fictitious employment of his girl friend at the company. The executive director asked for and received smaller or greater favours and presents from the Western customers of the company. In recent years he illegally acquired hard currency to a value of several hundred thousand forints. The verdict claims the reimbursement of more than half a million forints. [Text] [*Budapest MTI in English 1854 GMT 2 Mar 88 LD*]

Bilateral TU Talks

A delegation of the Trade Unions Federation of the People's Republic of the Congo led by General Secretary Jean-Michel Bokamba Yangouma paid an official visit in Hungary between 23-25 February at the invitation of the National Trade Union Council [SZOT]. He held talks with SZOT Secretary Pal Csikos, head of the Hungarian negotiating team. At the meeting that took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the two sides briefed each other on the activity of their trade unions and then the heads of the two delegations signed a cooperation agreement for 2 years. The delegation was received by SZOT Chairman Sandor Gaspar. [Text] [*Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 26 Feb 88 p 4 AU*]

Delegation Attends Jerusalem Conference

AU030842 Krakow TYGODNIK POWSZECHNY in Polish 28 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Article by Jerzy Turowicz, chief editor of TYGODNIK POWSZECHNY: "About Polish-Jewish Issues in Jerusalem"]

[Excerpts] An international conference on the history and culture of Polish Jews was held at Jerusalem Hebrew University between 31 January and 5 February 1988. [passage omitted] The conference was attended by a very large Polish delegation of almost 100 persons in addition to a number of Poles from the emigre communities in the West. [passage omitted]

The subject of the conference "The History and Culture of Jews" was most extensive. Papers were read on the situation of Jews in Poland and on Polish-Jewish relations beginning in the Middle Ages through the 20th century, the 20 years between the wars, the years of Holocaust, and the Jewish problem after World War II. Several papers discussed Jewish literature and the Jewish contribution to Polish culture, theater, movies, the press, science, and philosophy. The conference discussed the issues of national minorities in Poland between the wars, the Jewish-Ukrainian relations, the Polish political groups' attitudes toward the Jewish question, the Jewish political parties in Polish public life, the Jewish share in the Polish economy, the orthodox Jews, anti-Semitism, the Catholic Church's attitude toward Jews, assimilation, the synagogues, and Jewish cemeteries. [passage omitted]

It has to be said that no matter what issue the conference discussed, everyone was aware, all the more so in Jerusalem, of the shadow of Holocaust—the fact that 3-million strong Jewish community in Poland ceased to exist, that the history of Jews in Poland has ended, and that all has remained is memories and the joint cultural heritage of our two nations. That is why the difficult and controversial issues connected with the years of the Hitlerite war and occupation in Poland, with Holocaust, and the Polish community's attitude toward Jews during those years ,as well as postwar problems such as the tragic pogrom in Kielce and March 1968, occupied a special place in the Jerusalem conference.

For 1 day the entire conference left the university campus for the site of Yad Vashem, an institute on the outskirts of Jerusalem, dedicated to the memory of the 6 million Jews murdered by the Hitlerites—to the memory of the martyrdom and heroism of these Jews. [passage omitted]

The Jerusalem conference was one of those events that attest to the increased interest in the history and fate of Jews in Poland and to the intensification of research into this history and fate. [passage omitted] However, we are allowed to assume that the Jerusalem conference was the most important event of all such events and that it crossed a certain threshold. Several reasons are responsible for this: First, the number, quality, representativeness, and scientific standards of the participants; and, second, the fact that the conference was held in Jerusalem. It is true that at present, Israel, the occupied territories, and Jerusalem have become a place of dramatic tension between Palestinians and Jews—tension bordering on an uprising—which can be resolved only through political settlements and not through police or military repression. However, this does not change the fact that, as a city that is dear to the Christian and Muslim hearts, Jerusalem is also the capital of the State of Israel and the spiritual capital of the Jewish community living in Diaspora. To speak of Polish-Jewish relations in Jerusalem is something quite different from speaking about them in Krakow or New York. And the most important reason: the tone, ethos, and climate of Polish-Jewish debate. It is certain that we can and must dispassionately and objectively study the history and culture of the Jews who lived in Poland for long centuries and eliminate the blank spots in this history, bearing in mind that the history of Jews in Poland is part and parcel of Polish history. But this is not all. Although there are now no Jews in Poland, the Polish-Jewish problem continues to exist as a moral problem of great emotional weight, one that poses questions which still have not been fully answered and one that makes it imperative to overcome the bad past and to change attitudes on both sides. I participated in the conferences in Oxford and Krakow and in some other ones on similar subjects, but it was precisely in Jerusalem that we saw that the knowledge of Polish-Jewish problems was much better, that objectivity was greater, and that participants frequently demonstrated their attachment to and even yearning for Poland and its culture. The intensity of that anti-Polish attitude which characterizes large segments of the Jewish community, especially in the United States, was rarer and weaker in Jerusalem. This anti-Polish attitude stems from the fact that emotions have become a substitute for the knowledge of the situation and conditions in Poland, especially during the years of Holocaust. I think that it was precisely in Jerusalem that a certain threshold was crossed and roads were open to mutual understanding, a calm dialogue, and the elimination of misunderstandings. This road is no doubt long, but the door has been thrown open. This fact is important not only for our awareness and well-being, but also for our "image" and Poland's place and prestige in the international community.

That is why this article cannot end without expressing due gratitude to the organizers of the Jerusalem conference. It is impossible to list the names of all the persons who have earned our gratitude, but the honored place belongs to Professor Chone Shmeruk from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, director of the Research Center into the History and Culture of Polish Jews and chairman of the organization committee of the conference; Professor Anthony Polonsky of London, president of the Oxford Institute of Polish-Jewish Studies; and Professors Jakub Goldberg and Izrael Gutman from Hebrew

University. We must thank them for their cordial hospitality for the guests from Poland and for their great labors, which will certainly bear fruit in the future.

Thailand's Sawetsila, Orzechowski at Dinner

LD022215 Warsaw PAP in English
1423 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Bangkok, March 2—On Monday evening, after the end of Polish-Thai plenary talks, Thailand's Foreign Affairs Minister Sitthi Sawetsila gave a dinner in honour of Poland's Foreign Affairs Minister Marian Orzechowski, who is currently paying an official visit to Thailand.

During the dinner both ministers made speeches.

Minister Orzechowski stressed that relations between Poland and Thailand were becoming richer. The regular political dialogue corresponds to the growing activeness and role of both states. Their views on the basic international issues are increasingly convergent. Plans for the development of both countries create growing, though not always fully utilized, possibilities of widening economic and trade cooperation. The intensification of cooperation lies in the interests of both states.

Saying that Poland and Thailand invariably voice their support for the arresting of the arms race, share the common conviction about the need of living in peace, Minister Orzechowski underlined that the Soviet-American treaty on the elimination of medium and shorter range nuclear missiles constituted a long expected breakthrough in international relations. For Poland this has a direct, national dimension. It feels safer.

Minister Orzechowski expressed the opinion that, the Polish proposal of reducing armaments and increasing confidence in Central Europe, known under the name of the Jaruzelski Plan, took on particular topicality in the strengthening of peace in Europe in the new international situation.

Poland, which traditionally maintains friendly relations with all the states of Southeastern Asia, welcomes with satisfaction the possibility of progress in the solution of the Kampuchean issue and the strengthening of peace, security and good-neighbourly cooperation in the whole region, Orzechowski said.

In response to the toast delivered by the head of the Polish diplomacy, Thailand's Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said that warm and cordial relations now existing between Poland and Thailand were possible thanks to the firm will on the part of the two sides who were meeting halfway in the spirit of friendship and according to the principle of mutual respect of their national interests.

The contacts between the two states continue to develop and broaden which favours the mutually beneficial cooperation in many a field.

"I remember very well," said Minister Sawetsila, "that during the Polish-Thai talks in Warsaw we expressed our concern over the security worldwide and in our regions. Although Thailand and Poland are far away from each other, there are possibilities for their cooperation in favour of peace and stabilization in individual regions of the world," the minister said and added that as U.N. members the sides respected the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter.

Minister Sawetsila stressed that lasting peace in Kampuchea could be achieved through negotiating political solution. He also came out in favour of accelerating the peace process and referred to Poland's traditional role in solving conflicts and easing tensions in Southeastern Asia.

UN Delegate Discusses Middle East Conflict

LD012353 Warsaw PAP in English
2202 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] New York, March 1: The General Assembly session, now under way at the U.N. seat here, convened at the motion of Arab and non-aligned states in connection with the plans to close an observation [as received] PLO mission at the U.N., has been addressed so far by more than 30 speakers.

While taking the floor at the U.N. General Assembly debate today, Poland's permanent representative at the U.N. Ambassador Eugeniusz Noworyta stressed that U.S. actions were directed not only against the Palestinian mission but also against the entire U.N.

If the U.S. decision comes into effect, it will unfavourably affect the status of the entire U.N. and the fundamental issue of respect for the international law. It can be treated as an example of broadening unfriendly and limiting measures applied by the U.S. towards some missions.

Noworyta said that one should avoid all actions that hamper the settlement of the Middle East conflict. He also pointed to Israeli brutal repressions against the Palestinian nation. He adhered to the opinion that the proper way to peacefully settle the crisis in this part of the world was an international conference attended by permanent members of the Security Council and other parties, including the PLO.

Austria's Foreign Minister To Visit 7-10 Mar

LD281913 Warsaw PAP in English
1820 GMT 28 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 28—Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Alois Mock will visit Poland between March 7 and 10 at the invitation from Foreign Affairs Minister Marian Orzechowski.

Jaruzelski, Messner Congratulate CSSR

LD291457 Warsaw PAP in English
1831 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 24—Poland's Wojciech Jaruzelski and Zbigniew Messner dispatched a congratulatory cable today to Czechoslovakia's leaders Milos Jakes, Gustav Husak, and Lubomir Strougal, to mark the 40th anniversary of the commencement of socialist transformations in Czechoslovakia.

"The Polish United Workers' Party and the Polish people hold in great respect and esteem the enormous achievements of the fraternal peoples of Czechoslovakia in social, economic and cultural life, which are a result of the four decades of socialism building.

"The victory of the working masses in Poland and in Czechoslovakia as well as our common ideals and objectives have opened a new chapter in the development of relations between our, close as they are, peoples and states," the message reads in part.

Environmental Talks With GDR, CSSR Begin

LD011436 Warsaw PAP in English
1345 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Jelenia Gora, March 1—A tripartite meeting of the representatives of the Polish, Czechoslovak and GDR Governments, on environmental protection began today in Cieplice (south-western Poland).

Opening the meeting, Polish Deputy Premier Jozef Koziol said, among other things, that the mounting problems of environmental protection constituted one of the most important issues of the contemporary world. Pollution of the atmosphere knows no boundaries. Thus, necessary is the solving of the problems of environmental protection of an international scale, especially by neighbouring countries, he said.

The meeting is being attended by GDR Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Environmental Protection and Water Resources Hans Feichelt, Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister Jaromil Obzina and groups of experts.

Weekly Views Waldheim Controversy

AU021326 Warsaw POLITYKA in Polish
27 Feb 88 p 12

[Slawomir Wiatr Vienna dispatch: "Reluctant Memories"]

[Excerpts] The international commission appointed to investigate the Austrian President's wartime activities has published its report, which, as expected, has not added many new elements to the 2-year old discussion and has not made any breakthrough in the affair, which has dominated here all other affairs for a long time. [Passage omitted]

The new Austrian president has polarized public opinion in Austria and in the world in a special way for the past 2 years. All Austria has been forced to rummage in its wartime past, a thing which it has actually never done before. The 50th anniversary of Anschluss will be celebrated this year. Anschluss was a historical event, one that reflected the dramatic development of the Austrian state after the disintegration of the Austrian monarchy. [passage omitted] However, Anschluss has a specific ideological image. Hitlerism, which found many sympathizers and future members of the Nazi Party along the Danube, represented this image. Austria and its people were drawn into the Third Reich's political, administrative, and economic machinery and became one of the Reich's cog-wheels.

After the annihilation of Hitlerism, the elite of power was formed by the figures symbolizing the moral purity of politics. [passage omitted] A rapid economic development, stability, and Austria's growing authority in the world compounded the typical Austrian miracle—the miracle of rebirth. However, the discussion of the past has taken little room in the entire postwar development. The political elite, free from the charge of cooperation with the Hitlerite authorities, did not care much for such a discussion. Nor were other forces interested in it. Actually, all the people accepted the existence of this historical taboo. One cannot help noting that the entire world looked at Austria as most Austrians did: through the binoculars of success and neutrality.

This state of affairs was demolished in 1986 when Kurt Waldheim became a candidate for the federal presidency. Disclosures about his wartime past did not prevent him from winning the presidential election, which was the first postwar success of this kind for the Christian Democrats. The discussion of the biography of the presidential candidate and of the president himself has violated the rules of political manners and has awakened the dormant areas of social awareness. Two new lines of political division have appeared: for and against Waldheim's resignation from presidency. However, primary divisions have occurred with regard to the need to discuss the Austrians' participation in the Hitlerite war machinery and in the anti-fascist resistance movement. Much emotion and divergent judgments have been stirred by reactions in the world, mainly the U.S. Administration's decision banning Waldheim from entering the United States, by the president's progressive isolation, by the diminishing invitations to pay official visits, and by the unequivocally negative stand of the World Jewish Congress.

The hope that these emotions would peter out in time and that the situation would return to normal has not materialized.

Episcopate's Anxiety About Domestic Situation

AU031044 Warsaw SLOWO POWSZECHNE in Polish
29 Feb 88 pp 1, 4

["Communique on the 225th Plenary Conference of Poland's Episcopate"]

[Excerpts] The 225th plenary conference of Poland's Episcopate took place on 24-25 February under the chairmanship of Jozef Cardinal Glemp, the primate of Poland. [passage omitted]

The bishops reviewed the talks between representatives of the Episcopate, representatives of the Holy See, and representatives of the Polish Government on regulating state-church relations and establishing diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the PPR. The proposed legal settlements are expected to benefit society, the church, and the state.

The bishops discussed the country's current social problems and, in the mood of earnestness and anxiety, evaluated the situation of large and poor families as well as of pensioners as affected by recent economic decisions, especially price hikes. Under these circumstances it is necessary to protect these people against further impoverishment and to make political and legal decisions to enable individuals to engage in extensive economic activities in order to improve their own situation and to benefit the community.

In the light of the Catholic social teachings, it is necessary to crucially expand the private sector of the national economy and to constitutionally guarantee for it legal and economic equality with other sectors. Private ownership has a dual purpose: the individual purpose of safeguarding the needs of individuals, and the social purpose to benefit the entire community. In his encyclic Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, the holy father states: "The right to private initiative, which is an important right not only for individuals, but also for the common good, continues to be curbed. Experience teaches that denying and curbing that right in the name of the supposed 'equality' of all citizens actually annihilates the enterprising spirit, that is, the creative sovereignty of citizens. The result of this is 'leveling down' rather than equality. Creative initiative is pushed out by passivity, dependence, and subordination to the bureaucratic apparatus, which as the only 'authority' and 'decisionmaker,' if not the outright 'owner' of all production assets, places everyone more or less in a position of dependence, which is so similar to the traditional dependence of the worker-proletarian in capitalism. This situation produces frustration, hopelessness, noncommitment to national life, and the wish to emigrate, if only internally."

The general conviction is that our country needs extensive economic and political reforms. Among other needs, we need to extend individual economic activities, to make the cooperative sector genuinely "cooperative," to provide for territorial self-government bodies their own economic base, and to discard political considerations when selecting managing cadres.

However, it will be impossible to realize the economic reform without sacrifices, and that is why it is necessary to carry through extensive reforms in favor of society's sovereignty so that society is able to form independent social organizations and workers representations. In his encyclic the holy father asks: "Do not negating or curbing human rights impoverish the human being to the same extent as depriving it of material goods? Or perhaps even more? I have in mind, for example, such human rights as the right to religious freedom, the right to participate in the development of society, the right to freedom of association and to forming trade unions, and the right to take initiative in economic matters."

For many months we have heard official announcements that the necessary initiatives will be given more room, but the fact that these announcements are no more than lip service gives rise to concern. Not infrequently administrative practices continue to oppose various economic and social initiatives. Time is running out. Only deeds can convince society that there exists genuine determination to reform our economic, social, and political life. Without reforms the crisis may continue to deepen.

The holy father stresses the urgent necessity of such reforms: "Nations need reforming certain unjust structures, especially political institutions. May this process continue to expand and consolidate, because the 'health' of the political community—this community means the voluntary and responsible participation of all citizens in public life—and efforts to safeguard the law and to respect human rights are the necessary condition and a kind of guarantee for the development of the 'whole man and all people.'"

PAP Reports 2 Mar Politburo Meeting

LD030351 Warsaw PAP in English
2131 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 2—The PUWP CC Political Bureau examined yesterday governmental report on February 1988 implementation of the second stage of economic reform.

Last month, it was planned to fulfil 16 tasks which ensured:

—Designing a uniform system of appraising socialized economic units' operation, which relies on synthesis-based financial indicators that allow for annual and long-term reviews.

—Definition of new attractive terms of development of the licence system.

—Providing enterprises with financial encouragement to develop out-putting production.

—Introduction of new forms and mode of coordinating Poland's economic plans with CMEA member-countries, providing ministries, enterprises and research facilities with prerogatives to develop economic, scientific, and technological cooperation with foreign partners.

From crews and individual persons, the party and government leaders receive numerous signals about either irregularities or improper proportions between production and incomes. Shortcomings in this field undermine rational objectives of restructuring prices and incomes and disturb adaptation of enterprises and households to new conditions.

Signalled by the public, specially acute instances of excessive contractual prices growth indicators require determined counteractions.

It was said that the public would be informed which enterprises scheme to improve their economic results through price hikes alone. Persons guilty of such practice will be held responsible, both financially and administratively. It will also apply to enterprises and service facilities.

Just as alarming are the reports of some directors giving in to pay demands which are either voiced without prior appraisal of the enterprises' economic situation, or are not justified by growth of production, work efficiency, economizing, etc.

In those enterprises, in adherence to the rules of economic game, and particularly pay rises which are not justified by production growth, can negatively affect the enterprises, economic position and may, as a consequence, take a turn to the crew's disadvantage. For the population as a whole it would boil down to escalation of inflation, disbalancing the market, and pushing the prospects of strengthening of the zloty into more distant future.

The Political Bureau approached the government to carry out detailed analyses of the cases where pay discipline had been breeched. Founding bodies, banks, and the treasury should make those guilty answerable under respective articles, while control bodies of the PUWP are obligated to institute party disciplinary proceedure.

In mid-March the Political Bureau will hear an indepth analysis of enterprises' raw material supplies and of the situation with regard to market equilibrium and supply.

Social dissatisfaction is being evoked by still numerous troublesome difficulties of everyday life. Some of them can be removed without any need for investment outlays.

The Political Bureau assessed negatively the method the pay rises for health service officers had been prepared and introduced. The method resulted in dissatisfaction on the part of medicare employees.

As early as this month, at its visiting session in Katowice the Political Bureau will comprehensively consider problems of health and medical care's organization and operation.

The Political Bureau heard a report on problems in reorganizing the central economic administration. As a result of considerable reduction in the number of ministries, there emerges a possibility to use the vacated premises for meeting the most urgent needs of university-level facilities.

The Political Bureau were acquainted with a report by the party leaders who on February 23 this year visited crews of various places of work throughout the country.

Debates and talks with crew members focused primarily upon issues of implementation of the reform's second stage. Its success is essentially dependant on strict subjecting of pays to production results, on management improvement, on elimination of superfluous bureaucracy and better utilization of the work post attestation methods.

Also, the Political Bureau studied problems of farming and land protection, as well as of changes in the model of farms.

The area of land per country resident is systematically diminishing. Some 2 million hectares, which is 15 per cent of the total of land owned by individual farmers, are exploited below their potential capacity. In socialized agricultural economy as well, considerable differentiation of management effectiveness level is evident.

Symptoms of changes for the better also appeared in land economy. The model of farms is being improved, while on the average farms are growing in size and large farms are becoming more numerous.

The Political Bureau decided that currently used in land economy, the legal and organizational regulations as well as economic encouragement and preference do not satisfactorily stimulate proper management and productive utilization of arable land.

It is imperative that systemic economic, legal and organizational solutions be urgently designed so as to change the present situation. Consistent measures should be taken in order to increase the area of individual farms that yield large production and to carry out intensive land merging and exchanging.

Individual farmers and socialized farms should be provided with equally convenient credit terms for land and deficit production means purchase, and a clear system of tax and financial exemptions should be established.

Agenda Set for Sejm Session, Parliament

LD291901 Warsaw PAP in English
1732 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 29—The Council of State decided that the 6th session of the 9th Term Sejm would start on next March 3.

The Sejm Presidium decided to convene the 31st meeting of the Polish Parliament next March 10.

The agenda includes:

—Government information on lines and tasks of the Polish foreign policy and the international situation

—Extraordinary committee's report on the draft amendments to the electoral law of people's councils, presented by the Council of State

—Information on problems ensuing from the activity and decisions of the constitutional tribunal

—First reading of the government draft on changes in the law on prices

—Report of the economic plan, budget and finances committee and of the domestic market and services committee on the draft resolution on listing goods and services for which official prices are fixed

—Additions to the composition of the socio-economic council at the 9th term Sejm

Minister Comments on Boosting Market Activity

PM021027 Katowice TRYBUNA ROBOTNICZA in Polish 28 Jan 88 p 3

[Interview with Domestic Market Minister Jerzy Jozwiak by TRYBUNA ROBOTNICZA correspondent Natalia Paslawska; date, place not given]

[Text] [Paslawska] Minister, the creation of the new ministry was accompanied by an abolition of the artificial division that had previously separated the retail and producer goods markets. This was done to put the whole domestic market in order and to start building it up. It is, however, difficult to ignore the fact that you are starting from an unfavorable position. For example, the consumer goods market is at the moment practically nonexistent. In view of this problem, what new tasks are you setting your sector? When can we expect to see the market restored, even if only to its imperfect shape of a few months ago?

[Jozwiak] In the new ministry we are responsible for all aspects of market turnover, and it is a mistake to identify us exclusively with retail trade. We will handle producer materials and equipment procurement processes for the whole economy and also the whole consumer market. Let me add that we are not interested exclusively in steered distribution and allocation of materials, although these are included among our tasks for this year and until 1990, that is, until the system of controlled distribution of producer materials and equipment is abolished. Our tasks include also creating favorable conditions for market equilibrium. Consequently, we will deal with supply and demand correlations and also with the price structure by which they are affected. We will work on integrating the producer market with the consumer market, since their present division is an artificial one. This year's plan assumes an increase in goods delivered to the domestic market, including a considerable improvement—of some 4 percent—in deliveries of consumer goods. This should strengthen the credibility of the pro-supply market policy presented in the implementation program of the second stage of the economic reform and realized consistently by the Domestic Market Ministry. However, we must view our market situation from the perspective of the national economy, in its social aspect, and from the money-market viewpoint. We are expecting a considerable inflationary deficit, which cannot be changed overnight. But we will introduce concrete, institutional measures—as well as some extemporaneous ones—to neutralize its effects. For example, we will direct the distribution of materials and components in a way which will enhance market production. In view of all these factors, and considering the final formula of the prices and incomes policy which ought to stabilize the market, we forecast a noticeable improvement in the market situation by the second half of 1988.

[Paslawska] You said that one of the major tasks you are now facing is the organization of producer goods management. We know the disruptions in producer goods transactions only too well. Each year, for example, the contracts negotiated between producers and distributors at the Poznan Domestic Trade Fair are couched in such generalized terms that the distributors leave the fair without really knowing what goods they will be getting and what they will be able to put on the market. And this is just a small example. So what future is there for producer materials procurement, including the question of imported producer goods?

[Jozwiak] The Central Annual Plan for 1988 provides for a slight rise—just under 2 percent—in producer materials procurement. This, naturally, affects the performance of the whole industry. The situation dictates that we adopt certain principles of controlling the distribution of these materials. These principles have been formulated in a large number of documents issued by the Council of Ministers and our own ministry. Briefly, we have adopted the following directions: First, that we allocate producer materials to the key divisions of the national economy, especially those which handle government tenders, including those for marketable products. Such government tenders have been in operation for several years now and this year their list numbers over 100 items. And, although our producer goods procurement budget is very tight, the funds—including hard currency funds—necessary to guarantee the realization of government tenders are guaranteed. The second sector into which we will direct the stream of producer materials is the export industry, which determines our solvency and our capacity to import. The more we export, the more producer materials we will be able to import, and it is impossible to envisage the functioning of our economy

without those materials. Finally, the third recipient of producer materials and components is market production and so-called specially favored production, including, for example, those production sectors which employ handicapped people.

[Paslawska] A year has passed since we first heard about guaranteed producer materials for enterprises on government tender contracts, but practice proves that, as far as producer materials procurement is concerned, producers who were "lucky enough" to secure such tenders are often in the same situation as everybody else...

[Jozwiak] Let me repeat: Our producer materials procurement budget is very tight. At the moment we are taking stock of the whole area of production on government tender and bids are being made for government contracts. We will most strictly adhere to the principle of allocating our stocks of producer materials and components to those contractors who will turn out cheap, economical, and high-quality products. We find it very worrying that enterprises declaring the intention to compete for government tender make excessive, unjustifiable requests for hard currency allocations. We have recorded 10-fold increases in requests for hard currency. To give you an example, here is a case which does not concern "market" goods, but is sufficiently eloquent: The PREMA enterprise, which a year ago needed 2.7 million dollars to make a certain number of bearings, has now requested 27 million dollars for the production of the same quantity of the same product! Clearly, we must examine such requests thoroughly, and that is not an easy task. We are not ignorant of the plight of the producer, but it is necessary for everyone to realize the correlation between, say, how much we export and the procurement levels of producer materials we can attain. Hence the need for a system of steered distribution of producer materials, although we intend to keep adding regularly to the catalog of producer materials available in the free market. This is designed to give all enterprising producers a chance to buy their materials directly from the manufacturer. This year we will also be introducing modified regulations concerning the use of enterprises' hard currency allowances, which will be advantageous to all those who want to export.

Everything we have discussed here points unequivocally to a need for a strict materials management policy. Those who are wasteful or bad managers will have to face economic rigors which ought to eliminate superfluous, unwanted production.

[Paslawska] Meat, which is both a material and a product, has for years been the focus of public attention. Initial, tentative projects to abolish meat rationing this year have now been abandoned. How far away are we still from a situation where meat can be bought normally? Are the regulations controlling meat sales in the free market going to be eased, and if so, when?

[Jozwiak] Considering the drop in contract sales which occurred last December and was most certainly caused by the official announcement concerning this year's prices and incomes policy, and also the effected change, that is, the reduction in the originally envisaged price increases for meat and meat products that was, among other things, influenced by the results of the referendum, the government abandoned the plan to abolish meat rationing. We can, therefore, assume that the system of meat rationing will remain in force this year. We are, however, facing certain difficulties with the structure of the supply of meat and cured meat products within the present rationing system. Consumers do not find the existing structure satisfactory, particularly in view of the high demand for cured meat products. To meet this demand, cured meat products should represent 70 percent of our ration stock, and most of those should be long-life products. However, we are not able to meet this requirement because of subsidies, since within the subsidy system more funds are allocated precisely for the production of long-life cured meat products. Besides, the present price structure for meat and meat products is abnormally flat. Furthermore, we must remember that, apart from regular rationing, we also supply meat for mass catering, which naturally affects our general meat situation. To give you a fuller picture of where we are now, let me remind you that since 1986 we have been gradually introducing a free meat market in Poland. This constitutes an additional source of meat supply, although the extent of meat sold last year was on average very small, amounting to less than 2 percent of meat sold within the rationing system (although figures for individual voivodships were more varied). There are several reasons for this: the considerably higher prices, the fact that the sales facilities were not always adequate, and also the existence of certain restrictions, such as the rule that the trading license can only be issued to the actual producer of the meat, or the "territorial" restrictions within voivodships. We did consider withdrawing these restrictions, but the drop in free meat sales caused us to abandon the project. Only when the procurement situation has been clarified, when new prices have been established and the prognoses studied, can we make new decisions about the possibility of extending free meat sales through, say, abolishing the regulation which restricts the license to sell meat to the voivodship where the seller-producer actually resides.

[Paslawska] We are all crossing our own kind of Rubicon these days, but the path of the reform runs through a vicious circle syndrome. We are introducing reforms for the sake of the market, in a situation where the market is in a state of imbalance. Hence my next question. We are abandoning the detested, much-criticized system of centrally steered distribution and embarking upon the hazardous course of independence in, say, procuring our own merchandise. Malicious tongues maintain that buyers will no longer find it sufficient to carry the proverbial bottle of brandy in their briefcases. How, then, would you solve the problem of supplying large urban complexes with food without the backup of agricultural and

production facilities? Are we not in danger of discovering drastic differences in the level of market supply depending, among other things, on personal and local arrangements and personal and local politicking?

[Jozwiak] That danger already has, as it were, been written into the system of solutions which we are adopting. For the time being we are restricting ourselves to abandoning centrally steered distribution of consumer goods and consumer goods alone. We are, on the other hand, continuing with centrally steered distribution of nine basic food products, just as we did last year. However, the level of market supply in both large and small urban complexes depends to a large extent on the local authorities' ability to make use of the production potential of their local small industry. Wherever local producers receive support from their authorities, the local market situation is actually much better.

The situation in the consumer goods market is different. Except for fuels and detergents, we are abandoning rationing. We believe that the rationing system interferes with establishing good commercial practices and weakens initiative on the part of manufacturers and distributors, who sit and wait for the proverbial manna to fall from the sky. I am fully aware of the difficulties inherent in the new system, and also the interdependencies which may arise as a result. Nevertheless, all over the world commerce exists and commercial contacts take place without administrative intervention, and the time has come for our trading instincts to come into their own.

[Paslawska] Ventures undertaken jointly by commerce and industry, such as investment projects financed from Pewex funds, which have been adopted for the purpose of easing market shortages, were promoted by the previous ministry and I expect they will also be favored by the present one. A year ago we talked about examples of machines bought for the production of textile and rubber footwear, hosiery, or baby foods. The machines have arrived, and now we have no hard currency to buy the necessary raw materials. What future is there for such ventures, then?

[Jozwiak] Some of these ventures have already brought tangible market results, and some will be bringing them shortly. We are directing the funds wherever production is based on our own raw materials. I can add more examples to the ones you have already mentioned: Money was allocated for the purchase of seven production lines for making margarine (for Bielsko-Biala and Katowice among other places), and we have bought production lines for making pasta products. Production is expected to start in 1988.

This year funds obtained from Pewex will be allocated mainly for the purchase of raw materials. We are also considering the creation of a system whereby enterprises could borrow hard currency for their planned investment projects and repay the loans subsequently with their market production and export profits.

[Paslawska] On the eve of Trade Employees' Day, would you please give us an account of the tasks you have set yourselves that were supposed to improve customer service, and also those which were designed to assist commerce through investments?

[Jozwiak] In the past year, commerce twice found itself in a very difficult situation. In the 1st quarter of the year, when winter made itself felt, and recently, when we had to cope with the enormous pressure from panic-buying last November and December. And we did cope. So, side by side with the difficult current tasks, we focused on those which were designed to improve our commercial reality. The network of self-service stores has been extended, more outlets were added in which store managers were given a wide range of competence, and we shall continue along this course. Decisions were made concerning franchised outlets which were favorable for the interested parties. The relevant resolution will come into force in April this year. I believe that these rules will promote that form of commercial activity. We have also started to create economic and financial systems that make greater profitability in commerce possible. In 1986 the area of commercial facilities per 1,000 inhabitants increased by 7 square meters. That is not a lot, but after 5 years of stagnation it is a positive sign. Last year we also noted an increase. We invested in the manufacture of scales and the numbers of the traditional ones are gradually beginning to increase. We are establishing contacts with Yugoslavia in order to produce more advanced scales. Unfortunately we did not have enough hard-currency resources to launch the manufacture of refrigeration units. But these are not going to disappear from our range of interests, just like cash registers, of which there is an acute shortage and the manufacture of which has been undertaken by the Elwro works. So much for the accounting.

The next 12 months will continue to be a period of creating economic and financial rules that should give commerce a better starting point for the implementation of its tasks. But without changes in the production for the market we cannot obtain results in the shape of good, complete service for the consumer. Thus, effective stimulation of greater supply is the key to perceptible improvements.

[Paslawska] Thank you for talking to me.

Messner Addresses Government-TU Session

AU291324 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 26 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] PAP—Addressing the 25 February joint session of the Council of Ministers and OPZZ Executive Committee, Premier Zbigniew Messner said that he considered the meeting very positive. There has been a qualitative change in government-trade union dialogue, he said. There are no attempts to gloss over difficult matters, and these are being discussed without emotion, excitement,

and one-sided accusations. We all agree that the implementation of the "Schedule for Implementing the Decisions of the OPZZ Congress" concerns the whole of society.

There are differences in views on the degree to which these decisions have been implemented, Z. Messner continued. Nevertheless, an answer to the question whether there were clear qualitative changes to development last year are affirmative. Of course, life for the average person is still difficult. There are troubles with the retail trade, municipal transportation, medical services, and so on. However, we should avoid painting a catastrophic picture of the situation because the material truth is different.

A conviction that it is only possible to fully satisfy all trade union postulates if production increases and the national income rises should form the basis of the new principles governing government-trade union activity, Z. Messner continued. The belief that "the government has, but does not want to give" is a relic of the old way of thinking, left over from the order-directive system. Therefore, together we should concentrate on enterprises as units on which an improvement to the standard of living depends. Only enterprises can bring about a faster increase in supply—the basic method of satisfying the justified postulates of the trade unions. However, the key to the success of further stages of the reform lies in work discipline. All social and professional bodies within factories should concentrate on greater wage incentives and on the factory's financial situation.

The premier stressed that the government appreciates the range of new OPZZ initiatives. This shows that apart from the function of defense, the reborn trade union movement also performs the functions of participation and education. Of particular value, for example, is the start of work on a report on social policy, as well as patronage over schools and over factory cultural activity.

The premier announced a joint government-trade union report on the effect of the increased official prices on the standard of living, to be published after June this year.

Messner Addresses Agricultural Meeting

AU292044 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 27-28 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Addressing the 26 February joint meeting of the ZSL Secretariat and Government Presidium in Warsaw, Premier Zbigniew Messner said that the government consistently aims to implement the tasks of the Ninth ZSL Congress and 10th PZPR Congress concerning agriculture. This is illustrated by the decisions that have been made concerning agricultural development. If not all the progress that has been made conforms to expectations, this is because of the restrictions caused by our economic situation. Voivodship ZSL congresses, attended by government representatives, have shown which are the main problems besetting rural areas today, said Z. Messner. On its part, the government declares its readiness to cooperate with the ZSL in solving the important agricultural problems that were raised during the preparations for the 10th ZSL Congress.

Wozniak Addresses Szczecin Managers

AU030950 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 29 Feb 88 p 2

[Andrzej Miklaszewicz and Henryk Prawda report on speech made by Marian Wozniak, PZPR Politburo member and PZPR Central Committee secretary, at a meeting with plant managers and specialists held in Szczecin on 27 February: "The Tough Rules of the Game"]

[Text] Speaking at the close of the meeting, Marian Wozniak stressed that we must now proceed from general to specific discussions about enterprises and their entry into the second stage of the economic reform. We have to provide full answers to questions about whether existing mechanisms make sense, which of them do make sense, and which mechanisms need to be modified and improved. This is one reason for, among other things, the idea of holding meetings with enterprise representatives—meetings between managers and economic and social activists.

We should all become aware of the new and more difficult conditions determining development that have come into existence. Over the next year or two the situation in which enterprises find themselves will vary greatly, because their performance will be very closely determined by their ability to act in line with the tough rules of the economic game. If one enterprise loses, then that is simply too bad, but what will happen if society as a whole loses? Thus, what is at stake is Poland's international position.

Marian Wozniak went on to say that the reform calls for a new style of thinking with respect to the mechanisms according to which enterprises operate and are managed. We must, among other things, acquire the ability to institute rapid changes in the structure of production and the range of commodities that are produced, introduce more mechanization and automation on a more extensive scale, and master the art of make more efficient use of our fixed assets.

A properly conducted certification process is one path leading toward this goal. The purpose of job certification is not to reduce the number of white-collar workers, which includes engineers and technical staff, but to bring about a definite reduction in the number of papers and documents circulating in plants and being dealt with by dozens of people. Job certification is to initiate a genuine management revolution base on computerization and the creation of new organizational systems.

RFE Broadcast on Polish Writers Union Viewed

LD021207 Warsaw PAP in English
1140 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 2—On February 28th Radio Free Europe broadcast another portion of its outlook on the world, that is without consideration of the facts. This time the programme dealt with the situation in the Polish Writers' Union (ZLP). The Munich-based station was utterly disquieted by the fact that members of the former ZLP currently gained the right to join the new union, without going through the admission procedure which is mandatory for those who apply for membership for the first time.

For former members of the ZLP just a signature now suffices, without additional petitions and applications, without documenting their artistic achievements. For it had already been documented.

Distorting the sense of Wojciech Zukrowski's and Kazimierz Kozniewski's statements RFE said that they in a way incorporated all the former members of the previous union and that, according to the same principle, one of the three national bards from the period of the great emigration, Juliusz Slowacki, could also be declared a member of the ZLP.

These "free-style jokes" by RFE prompt a reflection about differences between the great emigration with Mickiewicz, Slowacki and Krasinski, the emigration fighting for the delivery of Poland from under the rule of the occupying countries, and that part of the paid political emigration of today which spares no efforts to harm Poland's independence.

PAP Criticizes RFE Comment on Agriculture

LD022149 Warsaw PAP in English
1335 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Warsaw, March 2—Gently speaking, the authors of Radio Free Europe's February 28th broadcast on the problems of Polish agriculture got muddled up, in striving at all costs to convince their listeners that the blame for the insufficient supplied of meat to the market lies with the authorities which, instead of adjusting agricultural policy to the existing area structure of farms, aimed to improve the agrarian structure.

In this they compared Polish agriculture's agrarian structure with the area structure of farms in France, Italy, the FRG, Sweden and Japan. It is clearly evident, maintains RFE, that the area structure of farms in Poland and the aforementioned countries ranges from 1 to 50 hectares. And since a bit further on they apparently unintentionally came out with a statement that the average area of a farm in Poland slightly exceeds 5 hectares, while in the FRG it exceeds 16 hectares and 50 hectares in Great Britain—they tried to conceal this mistake by saying that, practically, there is no prescription for the size of a farm.

Only they forgot that in the FRG and other countries in the west of Europe in order to raise management effectiveness in agriculture, agricultural policy was not adjusted to the existing area structure of farms but, already in the 1960's and 1970's, sharp economic mechanisms were introduced which in a brutal way eliminated small farms with the highest production costs. This was a painful stage not only for small but also medium-sized agricultural producers in the FRG and many other Western European countries, who had to drop out of agriculture.

It is interesting what would Radio Free Europe say if the Polish authorities applied equally drastic methods, brutally eliminating small, expensive producers, in order to gain greater management effectiveness in agriculture. Poland chose a different road of improving the agrarian structure which, as studies show, has had a significant influence of the effectiveness of agricultural production.

Studies by the Polish Institute of Agriculture economics and Food Economy show that between 1970-1973 production effectiveness of farms above 15 hectares was 21 percent higher than in the group of 3 to 5 hectare farms. Between 1977 and 1980 this difference already amounted to approximately 40 percent, increasing to about 54 percent in the 1980-1982 period. Thus, the agricultural policy in Poland which ensures identical economic and production conditions for all state, collective and private farms, large and small, is directed at the creation of conditions for the gradual improvement of the area structure through the voluntary shift of land by way of sales and purchases between farmers.

Leaders Public Appearances 18-22 Feb

AU261343 [Editorial Report] Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish from 19 to 23 February reports the following appearances of Polish leaders (date and page number given in parentheses):

The following leaders took part in the 19 February conference of the Warsaw PZPR Committee and of first secretaries of primary party organizations: Premier Zbigniew Messner; Politburo members Jozef Baryla and Wlodzimierz Mokrzyszczak; and Politburo candidate member Janusz Kubasiewicz. (20-21 Feb, p 1)

The following leaders attended the 20 February concert in Warsaw to mark Soviet Army Day: State Council Chairman Wojciech Jaruzelski; Premier Zbigniew Messner; Kazimierz Barcikowski, Politburo member; Jozef Baryla, Politburo member; Stanislaw Ciosek, Central Committee secretetary; Janusz Kubasiewicz, Politburo candidate member; Czeslaw Kiszczak, Politburo member and interior minister; and Florian Siwicki, Politburo member and defense minister. (22 Feb, p 5)

Premier Zbigniew Messner attended a plenary session of the Central Qualifications Commission for Scientific Cadres at the Office of the Council of Ministers. (20-21

Feb, p 3) On 20 February, he received David Rockefeller, U.S. financier, who is in Warsaw to attend the inauguration of the Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture. (22 Feb, p 2)

On 19 February, Kazimierz Barcikowski, Politburo member and State Council deputy chairman, received at the Belvedere Palace outgoing Afghan ambassador Abdul Qadir. (20-21 Feb, p 11)

Stanislaw Bejger, Politburo candidate member, attended the 17-18 February conference of first secretaries of PZPR college committees in Sobieszew, devoted to party tasks in education. (20-21 Feb, p 11)

Stanislaw Ciosek, Central Committee secretary, received a delegation from the Supreme Court of Afghanistan, which visited Poland at the invitation of the Polish Supreme Court. (23 Feb, p 8)

Jozef Czyrek, Politburo member and chairman of the Sejm Foreign Affairs Commission, chaired a 17 February meeting of this commission devoted to Polish emigres and received Katalin Radics, visiting director of the MSZMP Central Committee Scientific, Public Education, and Cultural Affairs Department. (18 Feb, p 2) On 18 February, he met with party aktivs of Rzeszow Voivodship to tell them about the economic reform, and attended an accountability meeting of his own primary party organization at the Polish aircraft plant in Rzeszow. (19 Feb, p 2) On 19 February, he received the entire delegation from the MSZMP Central Committee Scientific, Public Education, and Cultural Affairs Department headed by its director, Katalin Radics. (20-21 Feb, p 11) On 22 February he attended a ceremony at which the statute of the International Chopin Foundation was registered. The ceremony took place at Chopin's birthplace at Zelazowa Wola, outside Warsaw. (23 Feb, p 2) On the same day, he attended a meeting of the executive committee of the Skierniewice Voivodship PZPR Committee. (23 Feb, p 8)

Jan Glowczyk, Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, attended a 19 February social to commemorate the 45th anniversary of WALKA MLODYCH, a weekly published by the Union of Polish Socialist Youth. (20-21 Feb, p 3)

Czeslaw Kiszczak, PZPR Politburo member and interior minister, met with members of the Voluntary Civic Militia Reserve on 18 February on the eve of its 42 anniversary. (19 Feb, p 2)

On 17 February, Janusz Kubasiewicz, Politburo candidate member, toured the construction sites of two new health clinics in Warsaw (18 Feb, p 7) and attended a meeting of PZPR secretaries of primary party organizations in publishing houses. (18 Feb, p 7)

Zbigniew Michalek, Politburo candidate member and Central Committe secretary, chaired a meeting of the PZPR Central Committee Agriculture, Food Economy, and Forestry Commission on 18 February (19 Feb, p 2) and attended a meeting of the National Council of the Rural Housewives' Circle. (20-21 Feb, p 2) He attended the 21 February Warsaw Royal Castle ceremony to inaugurate the Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture (22 Feb, p 2)

Alfred Miodowicz, Politburo member and OPZZ chairman, attended the 18 February meeting of the OPZZ Executive Committee on the subject of housing construction. (19 Feb, p 2) On 19 February, he attended a session of the PZPR Central Committee Suggestions and Complaints Commission in Lodz on the subject of health protection for working people. (20-21 Feb, p 2)

Wlodzimierz Mokrzyszczak, Politburo member, attended a 20 February meeting of party aktivs at the cellulose and paper plant at Kwidzyn. (22 Feb, p 2)

Marian Orzechowski, Politburo member and foreign minister, met with members of his own primary party organization in the copper mine at Lubin on 18 February. (19 Feb, p 2) On 19 February he received outgoing Afghan ambassador Abdul Qadir. (20-21 Feb, p 11) Tadeusz Porebski, Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, attended the 17-18 February conference of PZPR college committees on the subject of party tasks in education. (20-21 Feb, p 11) On 19 February, he attended the plenary session of the Central Qualifications Commission for Scientific Cadres at the Office of the Council of Ministers. (20-21 Feb, p 3) On 22 February he chaired a meeting of the PZPR Central Committee Science and Education Commission about the education budget. (23 Feb, p 2)

Gabriela Rembisz, Politburo candidate member, attended the inauguration of the Rural Youth Union's fifth annual contest of ecological knowledge in Srema, Poznan Voivodship, on 17 February (18 Feb, p 2) and a meeting of the National Council of the Rural Housewives' Circle. (20-21 Feb, p 2)

Briefs

Customs Agreement With Soviets

Moscow, Feb. 29—A delegation of the Polish Central Customs Office, led by its President Jerzy Cwiek, wound up talks held here with a delegation of the Main Board of the State Customs Inspection at the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, headed by its chairman V. Bazovski. On behalf of the minister of foreign economic relations the president of the Central Customs Office signed an agreement with the Soviet side providing for a simplification of customs clearance of goods and other articles transported within a new framework of economic cooperation with abroad and an agreement on transport of goods and currency means by people who cross the border according to a simplified procedure. [text] [*Warsaw PAP in English 2010 GMT 29 Feb 88 LD*]

Rakowski Receives Canadian Senator

Warsaw, Feb. 29—PUWP CC Political Bureau member, Sejm Deputy Speaker Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski received on Monday Canadian Senator Leo E. Kolber. The two discussed Polish-Canadian relations, including economic cooperation. Kolber pointed to the need to concretize initiatives in this field. Also discussed were some issues of the international situation. [Text] [*Warsaw PAP in English 1846 GMT 29 Feb 88 LD*]

Shipping Law Amended

Until recently, our maritime law proclaimed that navigation under the Polish flag could only be conducted by ships belonging to Polish shipowners. That was until recently, because an amendment to Article 15 of the law allows for the navigation of a foreign ship under the Polish flag. Let us add that a West German contracting party of the Polish Baltic Shipping Company has made use of this opportunity. A red and white flag is fluttering over three ships from the FRG. And as to plans? There are to be several hundred such specimens in the future. And what's the reason? As usual, money. Simply, Polish crews are cheaper and registration fees much lower. Will we join the states of the so-called flags of convenience such as Panama and Liberia? Probably not yet, but the first step has been taken. [Text] [*Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1615 GMT 2 Mar 88 LD*]

Drug Dealers Sentenced

Kielce, March 2—During a routine roadcheck in Dodleze, central Poland, at the end of February, militiamen inspecting a Polish Fiat found three sacks and a large attache case filled with poppy straw. The two men in the car, residents of Jelenia Gora, who turned out to be drug abusers registered in militia files, confessed to buying the poppy straw for 5 thousand zloties from a farmer from the nearby village of Umianowice. The district court in Pinczow in a summary procedure sentenced the farmer, Roman M. (last name witheld) to 1.5 years of prison, Marek N. from Jelenia Gora to one year of prison suspended for 5 years and his partner Henryk P. to an 8-month prison term. The sentence is appealable. [text] [*Warsaw PAP in English 2146 GMT 2 Mar 88 LD*]

Soviet Missile Withdrawal Heralds 'Warming'

AU021805 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1720 GMT 2 Mar 88

["SCINTEIA on the Withdrawal of Soviet Missiles from the GDR and Czechoslovakia"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 2/3/1988—Referring to the USSR's withdrawal of its "SS-12" missiles from the GDR and Czechoslovakia, considered as the beginning of a goodwill peaceful operation, "SCINTEIA" shows in a note it prints in its March 2 issue: In a way, the transport of missiles also heralds the beginning of a season in which, as the Soviet-American accord stipulates, this continent is to be freed from medium- and shorter-range missiles.

The beginning of the withdrawal of shorter-range missiles "ahead of schedule" could be a stimulus in speeding up ratification procedures. Moreover, it is expected that these first "snowdrops" herald a further warming of the political atmosphere. Because, all in all, medium- and shorter-range missiles make up only 3-4 percent of the world's huge stockpiles of nuclear weapons. Intense negotiations are under way on a 50 percent cut in strategic or intercontinental (an over 5,500-km range) nuclear missiles which represent the greatest part of these arsenals. The anticipated withdrawal of the Soviet missiles from Czechoslovakia and the GDR is expected to stimulate the course of these negotiations.

The destruction of most of the existing nuclear missiles would be joyfully welcomed by all the peoples on the earth, the newspaper winds up.

Ceausescu To Visit Liberia in Early March

AU021800 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1731 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES 2/3/1988—The president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, together with Madame Elena Ceausescu will pay an official goodwill visit to the Republic of Liberia at the invitation of the president of the Republic of Liberia, Samuel Kanyon Doe, in the first half of March, 1988.

Romania Against 'Restrictive Measure' to Trade

AU021358 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 0941 GMT 2 Mar 88

["Broad Economic Exchanges on an Equitable Basis, Free From Obstacles or Conditions, a Demand For Development Today—A Commentary in SCINTEIA of March 2, 1988"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] The continuing growth of the forces of production, the emergence of a rising number of independent states, the growing interdependencies and marked complementarity of the economies of the various countries in the world today are behind the expansion of interstate commercial relations on a scale unknown in the past. That the growth of economic and commercial relations is directly related to confidence-building and the strengthening of security internationally has been increasingly obvious. And it is a fact that growing cooperative relations serve the interests of peoples, contributing to economic progress, to the cause of international peace and confidence-building, and to the promotion of detente. This is an interacting process because, by strengthening the climate of detente and security, favourable conditions are created for the growth of cooperation. This is all the more so in the present circumstances when, with all the states of the world without exception being affected in one way or another by the economic and financial crisis, and with strain and tension persisting in the international life, a broad international economic cooperation is a demand that is more pressing than ever.

As far as our country is concerned, President Nicolae Ceausescu stressed that the development of a broad international economic cooperation, of economic exchanges with all the states of the world whatever their social systems is an objective demand for a good economic and social performance of our country. Romania is firmly against any restrictive measure and obstacle to international economic exchanges. "It is our view that, the present circumstances of economic crisis call for an intensification end expansion, not restriction, of exchanges and of cooperation in production".

In its great constructive effort for a rapid progress on the path of economic and social growth to become a medium developed socialist country which is its great aim, Romania considered and considers its own efforts as being a decisive factor. Furthermore, our country, has attached importance to the development of international economic relations, to the promotion of economic cooperation and trade with all the states as an objective demand for general progress, and for the improvement of the world political climate, for the strengthening of world peace.

It is in this spirit that Socialist Romania was and is an active participant in the international division of labour, taking constant action for the deepening and diversification of its economic ties with all the socialist countries that hold the major share of its total exchanges, with the developing nations, with virtually all the states of the world whatever their system including the developed capitalist states. It can be said that growing trade and economic cooperation have been a salient feature of the Romanian foreign policy since the Ninth Party Congress, a fact proved by the expansion and diversification of Romania's international economic relations, by the many agreements, understandings, conventions, etc. It concluded with many other states on all parts of the globe during that time. While consistently promoting such a constructive and wide-open policy, our party and state also took action for a general growth of the economic cooperative relations, free from restrictions or discriminations among all the states of the world.

By widely developing its exchanges and economic cooperation with all the states, Romania set them, always and without exception on the principles of fully equal rights, respect for national sovereignty and independence, noninterference in domestic affairs, and mutual advantage. Experience has shown that the achievement of these principles as a whole—fully and to the letter—is a major commandment of our time because only in that way can equitable exchanges be promoted in a normal climate to meet the interests of peoples.

Unfortunately, facts have shown that, even though the development of world economic relations on the basis of the unanimously recognized principles of interstate relations is essential to set interstate relations on a healthy course and a basic demand for general peace and progress—various abnormal obstacles and barriers stand in the way of international economic relations and economic cooperation.

It is a fact that the persisting artificial obstacles that are against the interests of economic development worldwide, the protectionist measures of all kind, the restricted access—under various pretext—to international markets, to the use of the achievements of the revolution in science and technology—all that at a time when the foreign debts—a result of the high interest rates—are an ever heavier burden—have considerably eroded the economic position of a large number of developing states by limiting their potential for progress. [punctuation as received] It is precisely for that reason that Romania firmly stands for the elimination of all these restrictive and discriminatory practices, for a free trade, for broad and mutually advantageous economic relations.

Particularly harmful has been the anachronic [as received] political conditioning and pressuring practice on the line of a discredited policy of strength and interference in the domestic affairs of states. Experience has shown that the resort to these practices can only perturb international economic relations, breed animosity and tension, deteriorate the political climate and, in that way, greatly affect both the interests for general economic cooperation and the interests of peace, understanding and friendship among peoples. Obviously, to make the so-called political "concessions" a condition for economic relations, the tendency to judge and resort to abusive and arbitrary interpretations of the situation or developments in one country or another are incompatible with the unanimously recognised international norms and with the provisions of the General Agreement for Trade and Tariffs (GATT) that a large number of states signed, or with the efforts for an equitable, mutually advantageous cooperation among states, for the worldwide assertion of the aims of peace and understanding. If the government or political forces in one country "do not like" something in another state, then the reserve [as received] may also be true, which does can [as received] hardly be a reason for the blockage or restriction of the economic relations. What would the world economic relations be like, should anyone assume such "rights"? Could one speak of a healthy international economic life? Therefore, the fact that such practices are still used, that embargoes, economic blockades, trade restrictions, lists of prohibitions, etc.—that prove to be as harmful as they are inefficient—are still resorted to, openly or in a veiled way, can only result in the deterioration of the economic—and other—relations between states. A healthy growth of the world economy calls for a rejection of such practices that pay tribute to the old way of thinking and action in international life, for the promotion of equitable economic relations free from interference, pressure or political strings, for the granting of mutual advantages and long-term facilities.

Firmly working for the elimination of all factors that could prevent a steady and mutually advantageous flow of material goods, our country—as President Nicolae Ceausescu has repeatedly shown—is determined to further develop its trade and economic cooperation with all the states, regardless of their social and political system, on line with the targets of the thirteenth congress and the national conference of the party, to take action with the same consistency and always in a constructive spirit to set the international economic relations on a democratic basis, to promote dialogue for the settlement of any problems or controversies in agreement with the norms of equality and equity, with the demands for detente and peace.

The general interests of the world we live in imperatively require that all the states—small, medium-sized or great—make their contribution to the broad and unlimited development of world economic cooperation, avoid any action that could raise obstacles to that cooperation, contribute towards a new political climate favouring the attainment of the goals of detente and disarmament, confidence-building and cooperation internationally. The vital interests of all peoples, for the progress of which trade is an important factor, demand that the problems that may arise in the international economic relations be solved in a constructive, rational way so as to ensure the development and advancement of all the states, to promote the general aims of international peace and understanding.

Ceausescu Sends Message to PCE Leaders

AU020944 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 24 Feb 88

[Message by RCP Secretary General Nicolae Ceausescu to Dolores Ibarruri, president of the Spanish Communist Party and to Julio Anquita Gonzalez, general secretary of the Spanish Communist Party on their election to office]

[Text] To Comrade Dolores Ibarruri, president of the Spanish Communist Party [PCE] and to Comrade Julio Anguita Gonzalez, PCE general secretary,

Your election to the offices of PCE president and general secretary, respectively, gives me the pleasant opportunity to convey to you warm congratulations and best wishes for success in the highly responsible position entrusted to you by the Spanish Communists.

I take this opportunity to express my belief that the traditional relations of close friendship and solidarity, esteem, confidence, and mutual respect between the RCP and the PCE will continue to develop for the benefit of our countries and peoples and in the interest of the cause of peace and cooperation in Europe and throughout the world.

Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general.

Cocktail Party Held on GDR Army Day

AU011902 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1834 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 01/03/1988—On the 32nd anniversary of the day of the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic, that country's air and naval military attache to Bucharest, Lieutenant Commander Richard Luderfinger, gave a cocktail party on Tuesday [1 March].

The attendance included representatives of the Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, party and state activists, generals and senior officers, journalists.

Present were heads of diplomatic missions accredited to our country, air and naval military attaches, other members of the diplomatic corps.

Ceausescu at Conference of People's Councils

AU03113 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1126 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 03/03/1988—In the presence of RCP and Romanian state leader, Nicolae Ceausescu, the works of the all-country conference of chairmen of people's councils opened in Bucharest on March 3, major event in the socio-political life of Romania.

President Nicolae Ceausescu made an opening speech.

The works of the conference continue.

'Steady Development' Reported in Shipbuilding

AU031059 Bucharest AGERPRES in Romanian 1029 GMT 3 Mar 88

["Shipbuilding-Impetuous Development"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 03-03-1988—Two new motorships—3,300 and 5,000 dwt—were delivered to foreign partners by the Oltenita shipyard. These days too, a new, 3,300 dwt motor ship has been prepared for tests and work is on for the completion of the 100th ship of the 5,000 dwt series.

The Oltenita shipyard, just as, in fact, those of Braila, Sulina, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Galati, Giurgiu, Constanta, have recorded steady development and modernization in the last 20 years, as well as increased productive capacities and improved technique. At the same time, two new shipyards were built at Tulcea and Mangalia. They run modern technological equipment: automated sheet-cutting machines, big-capacity hydraulic presses, mechanized lines for section assembly, automated welding equipment. At Constanta, Mangalia and Galati there are dry docks for big ship building and repair, some shipyards employ launching and lifting installations of the synchro-lift type. All these investments have allowed Romania to now rank among the first European producers of river and seagoing ships. From a transportation capacity of the sea fleet of 2.5 million dwt in 1980, Romania reached over 4.3 million dwt in the 1981-1985 five-year period. The manufacturing time of a ship has been cut by 40 percent. Romania now produces 39 types of sea ships, as compared with only one in 1965.

An outstanding contribution to the development of this sector has been made by ICEPRONAV, the specialized design institute in Galati, that projected the systems of cargo vessels from 1,600 to 15,000 dwt, river pusher boats, harbor and ways tug boats, dredgers, and lighters. The shipyard in the same Danubian port specializes in the building of sea-drilling platforms. For the current five-year plan period, in which the transportation capacity of the Romanian fleet will go up to 7.3 million dwt, drafts have been made final and the construction concluded or is about to conclude of bulk-carriers of 156,000, 85,000 and 25,000 dwt, all-purpose cargo boats of 15,000 and 5,000 dwt, portcontainers of 8,000 dwt, ferry boats, fisher boats, etc.

Army Expenditures Cut 10 Percent Over 5 Years

LD021730 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1558 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Presidency has decided to reduce the peacetime composition of the Yugoslav Army by 12 percent, the wartime army by 10 percent, and territorial defense by 13.7 percent. In this way, expenditures on the army up to the end of this 5-year plan will be reduced by about 10 percent as compared to what was planned.

The following communique was issued today from the Presidency session:

The SFRY Presidency has considered the implementation of the development plans of the armed forces of the SFRY and adopted a decision on changes to the medium- and long-term plan for developing the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and accepted addenda on criteria for changes in the development plans of territorial defense. The SFRY Presidency adopted these decisions at the suggestion of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense. It is acquainting the SFRY Assembly with this matter.

The corresponding changes in the plans of development relate to the reduction in the numerical size of the Armed Forces—the peacetime JNA is reduced by 12 percent, the wartime JNA by 10 percent, and territorial defense by 13.7 percent. There is restructuring of some forms of spending, so that the total expenditure on the JNA up to the end of this 5-year plan is reduced by about 10 percent as compared to what was planned. A number of development programs are being dropped, while some are being postponed, and the whole structure of the plans is being brought into line with the real material and other conditions for their implementation.

The restructuring of spending has been carried out in keeping with an even greater selection of priorities and the apportioning of greater importance to technical modernization and the vital elements of combat-readiness.

The essence of the changes in territorial defense is tailoring its size to the demographic potentials and the material and financial possibilities of the sociopolitical communities, accompanied by corresponding improvement in organization.

With these reductions and other changes in the plans of development, the defense capability of the armed forces of the SFRY is maintained, and these plans are in accord with the economic situation in the country.

Army Weekly Denounces MLADINA Attacks

AU021419 Belgrade NARODNA ARMIJA in Serbo-Croatian No 2536 18 Feb 88 p 3

[Dusan Pejanovic commentary: "Between Madness and Unscrupulousness"]

[Text] MLADINA's public piracy has been getting fiercer and fiercer. For a long time now, the editorial team of the organ of the Slovene Socialist Youth Association has been filling its pages with articles that attack—in a way that is anarchic, ideopolitically wrong, unfair from an expert and professional perspective, or to be more precise, extremely unprofessional—everything that is done in our Armed Forces, particularly in the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA], to make our defense strength meet the requirements of the present time and, more importantly, of the future.

For a long time there has been no harmony between MLADINA's ideas and the orientations of the LCY and our society about the all-people's defense and social self-protection, about the armed forces, and, in particular, the YPA as the joint army of the workers class and the peoples and nationalities of Yugoslavia, and there has been a deep gap between the two orientations.

While this society, with the LCY at its head, does everything to make its country ready for defense and constitutionally secure, MLADINA gives its numerous articles an ideological, political, and "professional" tone, so as to refute and destroy everything built up until now and replace it with anything but the type of defense that will defend Yugoslavia as it is.

From the "Dialogue" on the Equality of Languages and Scripts in the YPA to Denying All Values of the National People's Defense and People's Self-Protection [subhead]

It was in the eighties [as published] that MLADINA began championing attacks against the defense system, which this society adopted as early as during the national liberation war and revolution, and particularly against the part of that system constituted by the YPA.

MLADINA's "dialogue" with defense started first with texts on the equality of languages and scripts in the YPA only to grow during recent years into an attack with all the characteristics of rudeness. In its latest issue, in one of its articles on defense, MLADINA urges our federal secretary—to "go home."

It is hardly surprising that such "invitations" and calls are coming from a newspaper that in about 150 of its latest issues had adopted an extremely negative attitude toward all values of the concept of the all-people's defense and, within it, the YPA and its leadership. However, it is surprising, and very surprising at that,

that these messages are met with very little resistance. Why have the consequences of such arrogant and destructive public behavior been underestimated for such a long time?

The lack of resistance and any other lack of opposition to MLADINA's editorial team in its attempts to push forward articles persistently claiming and proving that the Army is conservative, that it lacks an organized control by society, and that it is an obstacle to the further democratization of social relations, should finally begin to worry someone.

No honest person in our country can accept MLADINA's assertions that the YPA is a unitarist and supranational creation, a diseased tissue in the self-managing system, and a pillar of support for bureaucratic-dogmatic forces. It is also impossible to understand that for a long time there was no public opposition to MLADINA's continuous public assertions that the Army is a "parallel state," and the all-people's defense the only "criterium of social life" in our country. It is almost unbelievable that there was no opposition to advocates of the depolitization of the Army, its isolation from political life, and its withdrawal into barracks, that is, to the claims that the Army is not feeding ideologically and spiritually at its only breast, the Yugoslav self-managing society.

Advertising itself as being just about the only one authorized to make judgments on military questions in our country and certainly on everything that it advocates in the name and for the benefit of democracy in our country, the creators of the youth newspaper of the SR of Slovenia proclaim the entire military training in our country as inefficient—first the training in the schools and then the training in the barracks. They claim that in 1981 the Army sent to Kosovo was neither more nor less than one-fourth of its complete force.

MLADINA's claims range from madness to unscrupulousness. According to MLADINA, the Army is a "thick-skinned institution" and its highest officers are like prophets, addicted to "agreeing with themselves," and their most favorite pastime is law and order.

According to MLADINA, those two military concepts (law and order) are not virtues, at least not in the case of our Army, but a sign that "it is not easy to be a minister in a country that provides weapons to criminals."

Although nobody in our country has said so, the Army, according to MLADINA, "claims that it is the main and the only true Yugoslav institution." Its barracks, according to MLADINA, are cleaned only when the control comes but are otherwise neglected. MLADINA's dark view of our situation even goes as far as visualizing the Army as carrying out a military coup that would be supported by Serbian nationalists and would drive Slovenia and Croatia to secession. The generals will abolish democracy; they will be arresting people, putting them on trials, torturing, shooting, and hanging them. As MLADINA jokes unscrupulously, Mamula offers people the last chance to avoid this. That same MLADINA "consoles" us: the coup in Yugoslavia will be carried out in a peaceful way, for the Army has already been entangled in all civil life.

This series of articles is horrible and disgusting, for nobody in this country sees or considers the YPA as being a unitarist, supranational creation. We are fortunate that it appears as such only to MLADINA and similar newspapers. And it is only in their sick and destructive view of our present and future that the YPA is supporting bureaucratic-dogmatic forces in the country. It is only according to them that the military service is unnecessary; it is only according to them that our army does not need heavy armament; only they want Yugoslavia to be forbidden to export domestic armament and military equipment. And because the Army "exploits the workers class," one must radically reduce the "military budget"! The concept of the all-people's defense leads to the militarization of society, it is too expensive and inefficient.

And so on, and so on. Rudeness and stupidity continue forever.

Believe it or not, even foreign newspapers would not use such messages as their titles and banners, so that we could feel or see dislike or extremely evil intention in them. These are the titles in a newspaper that is created and made on our territory and that sends us all those messages from our territory—from the pages of the organ of the Slovene Socialist Youth Association, MLADINA. However....

MLADINA Is Not Alone [subhead]

One of the most vociferous advocates of defense that is different from the one chosen by the Yugoslav socialist self-managing society is undoubtedly the magazine NOVA REVIJA.

This review has expressed its views of our defense most clearly in the so-called "Contributions to the Slovene National Program." These views go as far as the negation of our revolution, the national liberation struggle, and the role played by the Communist Party of Yugoslavia in the revolution. Making an excessively critical evaluation and a gloomy view of the position and future of the Slovene people in Yugoslavia, NOVA REVIJA persists in its view that the proposals for amending the Constitution are unacceptable. It advocates a multi-party system as the only way out of the crisis; it asserts that the present political system is totalitarian. It sets the Slovenes against the Serbs; it gives full support on Kosovo to the Albanians imbued with nationalism and separatism; it stresses the right to self-determination to the point of Slovenia's secession, and demands that this question should be left constantly open.

The anti-Yugoslav views of NOVA REVIJA, as we see, do not stop at attacks on the YPA. They reach much further: to the destruction of all the foundations of this country; to the assertions that Yugoslavia cannot exist as a federal state, because every federation is a form of unitarianism, and the YPA is its protector; that the Slovenes remained without their army and the YPA is an occupying army in Slovenia; that Slovenia has a right to its own state and army (as if the YPA were not also Slovene); that the YPA is a result of the Stalinization of our society; that there is no military strategic reason for the stationing of "foreign" military units in the territory of Slovenia, because these units do not understand commands in Slovene; that all the important positions in the YPA are held by Serbs and unitarists; that the YPA is an occupation, alien, fascist, and robber army; that the Army constitutes a danger for the national identity of the Slovene people; that a higher level of intranational togetherness in the YPA can be achieved only through the introduction of nationally homogeneous units, through a return to the "relevant tradition" like the national liberation struggle in Slovenia; that Yugoslav generals have pro-Soviet leanings; that the YPA in 1981 occupied Kosovo; and so forth.

Hardly anybody who is sober will accept the messages of NOVA REVIJA or those of MLADINA. Long ago, this society established what every one of its members and what the force that protects it from external violence and from enemies within should do. Nobody in this country attaches a greater role to our armed forces than the role set down in the Constitution: to defend the inviolability of the borders and the constitutional system of the country.

The "musings" of some NOVA REVIJA contributors along the Yalta lines—fifty-fifty [refers to the spheres of interest agreed upon by Churchill and Stalin]—and the theses about the SFRY being a fusion of historically incompatible parts—the "Turkish" eastern, underdeveloped part and the "Austrian-Hungarian" western and developed part—are worse than ridiculous for the Army personnel and for a great majority of the citizens of this country. Therefore, the lecture to the western bloc that it "should not forget" its interests as regards Yugoslavia, and the message to that group about how it should attain these interests under the present conditions is also ridiculous and disgusting.

As we can see, MLADINA and others professing the same faith cannot be stopped in their attacks on the basic values of this society. Defense and the Army, as the most organized part of defense, are the most exposed targets to them. The ultimate aims are more than obvious: They want to dispute the place and role of the Army in our defense and self-protection system and our political system. They want to cast suspicion on the general Yugoslav nature of our Army; they want to dispute some essential principles of the YPA organization and the strategic directions of its further development; they struggle for a radical reduction of the funds for financing the YPA; they dispute the combat readiness of the Army and of the all-people's defense and social self-protection system; they want to discredit the moral political integrity and social respect of the YPA and its officer cadres.

One of several articles on the subject of defense in MLADINA that appeared a few days ago is directed toward these targets, such messages give it its tone, and it is colored in typical MLADINA colors.

MLADINA's occasion for the attack on the YPA this time was the visit of Fleet Admiral Branko Mamula, federal secretary for national defense, to friendly nonaligned Ethiopia. Rudely, in its own style, MLADINA once again attacked the top man in our defense, daring to tell him, in English, in the headline of one of its articles, to go home. MLADINA even rudely and openly calls for mutiny and insubordination in the Army.

This is another shot directed at our Army and its leading cadre, cloaked in a vulgar, mocking, and insulting style, tone, and vocabulary, as usual. This is precisely what "suits" a newspaper that has for a long time been usurping the right to pass judgment on what is democratic.

Through the entire post-war period, the YPA has persistently preserved and developed its social respect that was won in the national liberation war and revolution and has never been disputed. It has done this through a constant deepening of its revolutionary national and class nature, through cultivating brotherhood and unity within its ranks, through developing most sincere human relations but also conscious military discipline, through its consistency in implementing the LCY strategy and policy, and through strengthening its links with the working people and sharing their fate.

The assertion made by MLADINA and those on the same frequency as MLADINA that the concept of all-people's defense and social self-protection are, to say the least, strange, because in saying so one simply ignores the fact that this concept—created during the national liberation war with Tito to lead us and later enriched through new knowledge and solutions—is actually antimilitarist in its essence.

Therefore, MLADINA's new "discoveries" belong to the kind of literature that one could compile into a rather large book and entitle it a primer, a reader, or a textbook for teaching hatred for everything that is a foundation of this society.

Is it not high time to finally tell at least the first man of MLADINA, who has long been creating and cherishing such literature persistently, continuously, even passionately, using his own vocabulary—to go home?!

Price Increases Set for Fuel, Raw Materials

LD022034 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—The FEC adopted the decision on increasing the prices of liquid fuel and of some other products, which came into effect today, in order to reduce the costs in individual sectors of the economy caused by changes in the dinar exchange rate, price movements on world stock markets, and the increase in the price of raw materials and materials for reproduction. In this process the FEC has exercised the maximum degree of restraint in an attempt not to disrupt overall relations in the system of prices. This was stated at today's press conference in the Federal Secretariat for Information by Aleksandar Donev, federal secretary for Markets and General Economic Affairs.

In addition to the prices of liquid fuels, which were announced this morning, dairy products were also increased in price—by 16 percent. Vegetable fats went up by the same amount. Also on the list of products for which new prices have been approved are, among others, tractors (16.5 percent), fertilizer (15.2 percent) and insecticides (25 percent).

Television prices may be increased only by those manufacturers whose prices last year did not keep up with the growth of prices in industry. New prices have also been approved for individual textile products, joinery, bricks and tiles, and some confectionary and other items.

The FEC also adopted a decision on the increase in price of nonferrous metals and other raw materials for reproduction that it was assessed were not sufficiently stimulating for manufacturers. If foreign partners have at least a 20-percent stake in joint ventures and long-term cooperation agreements, such as in the car industry for example, prices that were valid on 14 November can be increased by 24.6 percent.

Also going up are cocoa, various kinds of spices, and other similar imported products. The FEC decision also stipulates that corn can cost 210 dinars, given the currently prevailing conditions of sale.

It is estimated that these price rises, together with those of oil and derivatives, could increase manufacturers' prices by 5.7 percent and retail prices by 4.6 percent. The so-called mediating effect, in other words the new price rises which could cause this movement in prices, would reach 2.3 percent in industry. If, however, the regulations are adhered to strictly, the FEC belives, there will not be this indirect effect.

Most of the questions directed today at FEC representatives related to the illegal price increases that have gathered momentum. The federal government, Aleksandar Donev said, will demand the dispossession of the profit of all the work organizations that have not respected the regulations on prices. The temporary divestment of illegally "earned" money will also be proposed, pending the adoption of valid legal decisions. This will be done because from the time that charges are brought by the inspectors to the adoption of a final judicial decision as much as several years may pass. In the meantime inflation "eats up" the punishment.

Manufacturers deemed by market inspectors to have increased prices in contravention of the regulations, FEC member Tibor Salma said, will have to put them back to within the framework stipulated in the intervention measures. This means that separate decisions will not be adopted as previously but prices will be put back on the basis of the findings of inspectors alone.

Illustrating the extent of the illegal behavior in the market, Milan Sojic, director of the Federal Prices' Institute, cited the statistic that the share of the price rises approved in the FEC and competent republican, provincial and municipal organs was 1.2 percent out of the total February growth in retail prices of 5.9 percent. The difference—4.7 percent in retail price rises—are, it was said, the result of violations of the FEC decision on prices. [passage ommitted]

Journalists were also handed a list of 45 business communities that have sought price rises. The list contains, for example, the Jugobakar business community, manufacturers of mineral water, tractor manufacturers, cement producers, the tobacco industry, and others. Such a way of forming demands about prices is considered monopolistic. [passage omitted]

Replying to journalists' questions, Aleksandar Donev stressed that, despite unfavorable developments in the market and the violation of regulations, there would be no deviation from the program of the liberalization of prices. Where supply outstrips demand and where there is competition, steps will be taken to abolish the administrative control of prices, while at the same time imports will be liberalized.

Strikes for 1987 Up 98 Percent

LD022252 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1101 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—Last year 1,685 strikes were recorded in the country in which 288,000 workers participated, or 4.3 percent of the total number of employees in the social sector. This was announced at today's session of the Presidium of the Council of the Yugoslav Trade Union Federation.

In terms of the number of strikes, this is 98 percent more than in 1986. There was also a significant increase in the average number of participants per strike—from 67 to 171 workers. Most strikes continue to be in industry—92.7 percent—but there are also significantly more of them in health, social protection, education, and culture. use before multi-take items

Further on LCY Central Committee Conference

Renovica Previews Conference

AU031427 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 26 Feb 88 p 4

[V. Krsmanovic report: "Why the Crisis?"]

[Text] Belgrade 25 Feb—At today's discussion with communal officials of Novi Beograd, Milanko Renovica, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, stressed that no historic turning-points or new conclusions must be expected from the forthcoming LCY conference. As far as the fundamental decisions and program are concerned, its significance must rest in encouraging Communists to implement faster what they have agreed on. We must say where inconsistency, resistance, and obstruction to carrying through Congress resolutions come from.

Replying directly to the question of what Communists may expect from the forthcoming conference of Yugoslav Communists, because Novi Beograd at least would not wish it to suffer the fate of the 13th LCY Central Committee plenum, Renovica especially underlined "that we must discuss at this meeting why this long crisis has arisen, what its real causes are, and where we will find the decisions to emerge from it. Trust in the LCY and the expectations of this gathering are the best indications that we have not exhausted every resource and possibility in overcoming economic difficulties. We must openly state what additional efforts are necessary under the present constrained conditions. Public discussion of the ideas for this meeting to be adopted at the LCY Central Committee at the beginning of next week will during the next 2 months provide guidelines for discussion and the formation of stands at the meeting, after which we must work on specific and united agreements on how to proceed further. Since we said at the last party congress that we cannot emerge from the crisis using the ways and methods that have led us into it, we must really discuss how to proceed further, bearing in mind that there will be no further deviations from the agreement that is expected to be reached in unity."

At noon today, Milanko Renovica visited the tractor and engineering works in Novi Beograd which employs 13,000 workers and incurred a loss of 15 billion dinars during the first 3 months of this year. Losses of this kind, it was explained in discussions with the works management, have been largely the result of enormous price increases in production materials in relation to the final product. Since last November, the cost of production materials has increased by 300 percent, and the price of tractors has risen by only 15 percent. The factory will say more about these production problems at the afternoon session of the LC Conference of this collective, in whose work Milanko Renovica is also expected to take part.

Role of LCY Discussed

LD292310 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1041 GMT 29 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 29 Feb (TANJUG)—The 13th LCY Central Committee session is taking place in Belgrade today. The top party body is expected to adopt a draft of the propositions for the coming LCY conference on "The Consolidation of the LC's Leading Ideopolitical Role, Unity, and Responsibility in the Struggle for the Emergence Out of the Socioeconomic Crisis." Today's agenda also includes a discussion on the LCY Central Committee's role, degree of organization, and the substance and method of its work (these two points will be discussed jointly). Thus the Central Committee is taking a direct part in the preparations for the LCY conference. In accordance with their statutory duties members of the LCY Central Committee will also consider some topical issues of consolidating the LCY's class structure and implementing the conclusions on Kosovo adopted at the ninth plenary session. The LCY Central Committee is also expected to discuss and endorse the standpoints adopted at two of the Communists' action conferences—the action conference of Communists in the pharmaceutical industry and the action conference of journalists-Communists.

In his explanation of the draft of the propositions for the LCY conference, Bosko Krunic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, said that when the propositions were drawn up demands were taken into consideration which insisted that the propositions should provide incentive for further work, that they should be progressive, and that they should provide guidelines for overcoming present difficulties. For this reason the draft does not cover all areas of the LCY's activity but merely sets out the key issues of shortcomings and inadequacies in the LC's work with emphasis on failures in implementing the decisions of the 13th LCY Congress and the long-term economic stabilization program with the aim of achieving radical changes in the situation in both the LC and society as a whole.

The first, introductory part of the propositions contains a critical asessment of the situation in both the LC and society and gives reasons why the conference has been convened, Krunic said. This section identifies the key weak points in implementing the LC's leading ideopolitical role and stresses the LC's duty to and responsibility for further enhancing socialist self-management. It also stresses the need for improving the capacity for action of the basic party organizations and its leaderships, for ridding the LC of bureaucratism, and for creating greater scope for developing relations of socialist self-management.

The second part, which covers socioeconomic relations, outlines the LC's priority tasks in achieving the necessary changes. Following a brief resume of the economic, scientific and technological development in the world, the emphasis shifted to the directions of the further

consolidation of the position of self-managers who operate with socially owned means. The need for urgently overcoming autarchy and for strengthening Yugoslavia's unified market is noted. This section also identifies specific directions of changes in the economic system and policy, the LC's tasks in planning and developing the economic and social policy, and its role and responsibilities during work stoppages.

The third part is, in fact, a critical analysis of the method of organization and work within the LC and contains calls for the LC to speed up its efforts to adapt its position and method of work in line with necessary changes. It also covers, Krunic said, the whole set of issues of the LC's ideological and action unity as well as the issues of the democratization of relations, ideological struggle, differentiation, cadre renewal, and collective and individual responsibility in the LC. Noting that the propositions could have been both more extensive on the one hand and narrower on the other, Krunic added that during preparations for the conference attention should be directed toward current key issues and not on reexamining the issues already discussed at the 13th LCY Congress. In any case, the propositions are not the same as a resolution; the conference adopts standpoints which will serve as a framework for the LC's and the LCY Central Committee's work in the period after the conference, he noted.

The conference is expected to pave the way for the following changes in the LC's work: more determination in implementing the resolutions of the 13th LCY Congress—all the more so as these do not seem to occupy the same position in the mind on the one hand and in practice on the other of those responsible for making political decision. The present requires more self-criticism, he added, and that is why we need the conference right now.

Ending his explanation of the propositions, Krunic submitted on behalf of the LCY Central Committee Presidium a proposal for the LCY Conference, initially scheduled for March this year, to take place in the first half of May this year. Thus the basic LC organizations will be given more time to consider the propositions and to prepare for the conference during the debate expected to continue until mid-April. Under instructions from the Central Committee, the LCY Central Committee Presidium would subsequently set the date for the conference.

Following Krunic's speech, Radisa Gacic, secretary of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, submitted an introductory report on the content and method of the work of the LCY Central Committee, its organs and bodies.

The propositions for the conference should be more concise and more specific without sounding like a paraphrase of the already familiar standpoints of the LCY organs. We must in no way give the impression of not knowing what we actually want from the conference, said Marko Orlandic, the first to take part in the debate.

We can delude ourselves no longer—we have reached a historic crossroads. The kind of work we have relied on so far will not bring about the necessary turnabout. Since the 13th congress, Orlandic continued, there has been no change in the external factors. This leads to a conclusion that we alone and relations between ourselves are responsible for the crisis.

It depends on the outcome of the conference and on our attitude toward the tasks set by the 13th LCY Congress whether the next congress will take place within the period envisaged by the statute, or whether there will be a need for it to be held earlier, Orlandic stressed. In his view the conference should recommend a critical reexamination of the LCY Statute and the drafting of new solutions to be adopted by the 14th LCY Congress.

Orlandic specified some of the issues which should be reexamined. These include the relation between the Central Committee and its executive organs, the range of their activities, and the excessive size of their present compositions. According to Orlandic we have drawn more negative than positive experience from the practice of the 1-year mandate. This results in formalism and, in his view, there is no sense in defending a cadre policy which stipulates in advance who is to occupy which position between two congresses or even within an 8-year cycle. This is a typical bureacuratic mechanism whose rules resemble those of jeux Sans Frontiers [European Television program of silly obstacle races], Orlandic stressed.

It is obvious that there would have been no need for the LCY conference if we had drawn up a better resolution for the country's development in 1988, Dobrivoje Vidic said in reference to the conference's task to provide a platform for emerging from the crisis. He warned that in the draft propositions the conference's aim has been reduced to a mere search for the right method of work, whereas its goal should be to provide a platform for emergence from the crisis. He proposed revisions in the section of the draft dealing with this issue and also recommended that the Commission for Changes in the Economic system, appointed not long ago, speed up its work to provide a specific contribution to the conference. [passage omitted]

The rather unhappy circumstances in which we are living have resulted in a situation where the public has its eyes turned to the LCY conference. Expectations are great, Marko Lolic said, but we should not expect too much.

Calling for the propositions to be revised, shortened and made more understandable, Lolic went on to make some specific remarks. In his view, the idea that disunity had given rise to growing state power is arbitrary. The fact is, Lolic added, that the domination and rise in state power

occurred and is still taking place with direct and rather "unanimous" complicity on the part of the LC, primarily its organs and forums and their "indestructible marriage" with state authority and techno-bureaucratic centers. This has inevitably led to disunity and power struggles.

He said the state of crisis must be overcome, but with more, not less, democracy. Openness in our work and accountability for that work must become strictly observed principles, Lolic said. [passage omitted]

The present situation, according to Radonjic, requires an about face in the party to carry out a personal, functional, and financial separation of the LC from the state. At the same time, the party must be united over the program for Yugoslavia's harmonious development; there is a need for the return to the working class character of the LC, to some elements of the classical party discipline, and to a cadre rejuvenation at all levels within the LC, but not according to a formula or proportional representation but by applying the criteria of genuine party activists. In pursuing this we cannot expect support from neoreformists, nationalists, bureacrats, and mediocrity, he warned. However, we can expect encouragement from those who care about Yugoslavia's self-management-based, socialist transformation as a fraternal community of various nations and nationalities. We have no right to continue describing the situation, Radonjic concluded. This is not a plea for a new debate but for—a departure.

Ivo Karamarko criticized the working presidium over the order of speakers, for allowing professionals to speak first and then to be followed by other members of the Central Committee.

We have no right, Karamarko stressed, to moan and continue describing the situation. We must act. It is becoming increasingly sad to listen to our long discussions about resolutions and conclusions while life at the grassroots is taking a completely different course and we as a society are on the verge of a deeper social, political, and economic crisis. Responsibility for this also lies with the leadership, whose disunity and opportunism are confusing members. [passage omitted]

At a time when confidence is being lost in the prospects of our development as a modern, socialist society which stimulates work, creativity, and responsibility it is a key question—one that should be considered at the LCY conference, too—as to whether we want to find a way out of the crisis in the strengthening of market laws and democratization or in the dominant role of the state and state-orientated democracy, Borut Suklje said. The solution is, of course, in the acceptance of the first variant especially since in our country there are forces ready for effective political action to resolve the current difficulties.

There is no way out of the crisis without the LC, or only with the LC, but it lies in the joint action of all socialist forces, the coordinator of which is the SAWPY, Suklje specified. The conference should initiate changes that will facilitate not just the reduction of the discrepancies between Yugoslavia and Europe in economic and development policy, but also in the quality of the life of each individual, he believes.

The LCY conference must serve as a radical turnabout in the work of the LC, of the LCY Central Committee, and of its Presidium, Dusica Danilovic-Tanaskovic stressed, adding that with the decision on the convocation of this meeting the highest party forum has taken upon itself the responsibility not to misuse the trust of the people at the grass roots as was done on the occasion of the debate on the conclusions of the 13th session and partially also at the 13th LCY Congress. A turnabout is necessary, she observed, precisely because the lack of responsibility is the greatest weakness of our system and party work, in other words, because individuals in the posts in which they are active are not infrequently reduced to empty words or to the subsequent explanation of their poorly interpreted statements.

Proposing that the LCY Central Committee come out at the conference with a critical analysis of its work and that of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, Dusica Danilovic-Tanaskovic said that after this meeting thare should also be an assessment of the situation in republican and provincial organizations. It should be known, she added, that the crisis suits some individuals and differentiation must be carried out so as to determine who is prepared and able to respond to the needs of the moment. Finally, she proposed that a section of the propositions be devoted to the situation in Kosovo and she advocated that in the debate on this document the true views of members be heard. [passage omitted]

Andrej Spasov advocated that in propositions there be greater elaboration of the question of what is hampering the influence of the working class on social developments as well as what the reasons are for the failure to promote working class interests. Answers should likewise be found to questions of the extent to which the LC is at the center of self-management and how the obstructions to political action are removed. Spasov stressed at the same time the vital need to overcome the tendencies which return the LC to positions of authority and he advocated an uncompromising ideological struggle against nationalism and nationalist abuse of education, culture, and history. Spasov made several proposals as to how economic problems might be systematized in the propositions. In his opinion, a special place should be given to the distribution of income and, in this framework, to the stances of the 24th LCY Central Committee session on dual income as well as on the self-management pooling of labor and resources.

During the session, Bosko Krunic informed LCY Central Committee members about the LCY Central Committee Presidium stance in connection with the conflicting

situations which have arisen between parts of the leadership in the SR of Macedonia and the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo in connection with the speech by Azem Vlasi in Split. We believe that it is important to say this now because in part it is also connected with the question of the organization of our work and the resolution of open questions and also with the fourth point which relates to the implementation of the conclusions of the ninth LCY Central Committee session.

Last Tuesday at the LCY Central Committee Presidium, on the proposal of comrades from the Macedonian Central Committee Presidium, which was conveyed by Jakov Lazaroski, we considered the question of the reaction in Macedonia to part of the speech by Azem Vlasi which relates to the position of the Albanian nationality in the SR of Macedonia. Of course, Krunic added, in accordance with articles in the press and how these were received by the readership. [sentence as received] Although the press did not cover his address in an identical way at the forum of the Marxist Center in Split the fact is that in the section of the press which has the highest circulation this address and this part of his speech was reported and interpreted in a way which is unacceptable from a methological point of view as well as from the point of view of its essential meaning.

Azem Vlasi stated at the Presidium session that his explanation about this matter had been portrayed in a different way and that this interpretation, as was reported, was inadequate. At that time we agreed in the Presidium on two things:

First, that Azem Vlasi find a way—whether in the form of a denial or an interview or some article or even a whole text in the press—to explain his views on those questions that caused such vacillation and disagreement. In the Presidium we welcome the fact that the comrades in the Macedonian Central Committee Presidium wanted to open the issue in such a way, through a debate in the Central Committee Presidium, and arrive at some stances and inform the public about this in the most appropriate way—that is, about the Presidium's view and his personal point of view—and not allow negative phenonema and bickering to escalate.

However, it seems that in some organs in Macedonia and in the statements by individuals sharp condemnation was made of Azem Vlasi. As a result, the Macedonian Central Committee Presidium requested that a session of the LCY Central Committee Presidium be held yesterday prior to this session and that this matter be discussed so that we might have as clear a standpoint as possible on this question. As you know, comrades, the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee Presidium held a meeting at which Azem Vlasi explained the entire concrete incident, and they proposed that this be the end of this unnecessary debate.

We have now concluded that the public bickering over this incident should be ended.

At the first session of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, and with the necessary material in hand, we will discuss these problems without restraint and without much concern for ourselves. We must clear up this matter because it relates to very delicate political questions—which understandably provoke different points of view, interest, and disgust in public—for the sake of the clearing up of this whole incident and for the sake of the lessons in connection with the public speeches by officials. Of course, in a working sense regarding the overcoming of this situation, I believe full cooperation should be achieved in our tasks, while avoiding unnecessary entanglements in various conflicts, Bosko Krunic said.

In many conclusions, assessments, and articles in the press there is reference to the weaknesses in the LC: irresponsibility, inconsistency, and the incapacity to take action. However, Bozidar Grubisic said, the membership's requests for ensuring ideopolitical and action unity in the implementation of conclusions are even sharper. The demands for the surmounting of these weaknesses bear witness to the fact that the LC has not completely lost the people's confidence.

A higher degree of ideopolitical unity is sought from the highest LC organs because behaving in any other way, Grubisic stressed, leads to the weakening of the organization. In his assessment, work in forums is also one of the causes of the organization's weakness in terms of action, and the LCY Central Committee Presidium should inform the Central Committee more frequently about some of the most significant social questions.

The failure to react in a timely way to the attacks on the basic values and achievements of our society, as well as on the character and accomplishments of Josip Broz Tito, confuses the membership and working people, Bozidar Grubisic said.

In the propositions for the preparations for the LCY conference, it is sought of the membership and basic LC organizations that they state their views on the causes of the failure to implement the decisions of the 13th congress. Part of the tasks thus addressed, Ladislav Darabos said, also relate to us in the LCY Central Committee. In his opinion, a central question in this debate is the extent to which this vacillation is present in the LC and its Presidium.

The LCY Central Committee should behave more like the highest organ of the LC and implement in a united way established policy. The basic thing, in the assessment of Darabos, is that the LC and its Presidium realize their role in such a way that the central committees of the republics and provinces take on responsibility for the implementation of united LCY policy.

Finally, Darabos proposed that the documents, on the basis of which the debate at the LCY Central Committee Presidium session on the Vlasi "affair" will be conducted, also be sent, of necessity, to LCY Central Committee members.

Dusan Dragosavac said the essence of many problems lies in the disunity and inefficiency of the LCY Central Committee Presidium and the Central Committee. A leadership that is not united on its program and statute cannot resolve the crisis.

Saying that he did not want to speak in detail about the unity and disunity in the LCY Central Committee Presidium, although he continues to believe that a debate on this should be held, Dragosavac turned to the public speeches of senior officials. In this connection he stressed that owing to the severity of some of these statements they must be discussed. Since it has already been agreed that a debate be held in connection with the statement by Azem Vlasi, it would be good if there were also some discussion in connection with the attacks on the Yugoslav People's Army which have recently become more frequent.

Dragosavac proposed that instead of a working presidium which the LC elects for each session a permanent presidium consisting of three members be elected for 1 year. It would be elected in a secret ballot without heed to the republican and provincial sequence. LCY Central Committee members from the middle and younger generation primarily should be elected to this body.

According to the idea of Dragosvac, the LCY Central Committee Presidium would continue to submit proposals to the Central Committee. In this case Presidium members, Dragosavac said, could be more critical of their own proposals without this being understood as a political problem, because hitherto the failure to adopt individual stances and conclusions has also been interpreted as lack of confidence in the Presidium.

Finally, Dusan Dragosavac proposed that there be no conclusions on the work of the LCY Central Committee because they are below the level of the LCY Statute which regulates this sphere of problems. Instead, an analysis should be made of the implementation of the Statute and conclusions established on this basis.

Discussions to date confirm my conclusion that the propositions, because of their general nature and because they circumvent the most important questions of social life and the LC, do not correspond to the tasks of the conference, Sergej Kraigher said. Neither the stances nor the spirit of the session at which the decision on holding the conference was adopted were expressed in propositions, while the way in which today's session was organized is sufficient indication of the work of the Presidium and the Central Committee. Central Committee members were in fact not made aware of the work of the working party which prepared the propositions, nor of their dilemmas, so it is difficult in a 15-minute discussion to adopt qualified stances and decisions.

The propositions, in Kraigher's assessment should not only be reworked but should also be approached differently. They should then be discussed again at a Central Committee session.

The causes of this situation were stressed at the 13th congress and at the ideological plenum, Kraigher said. Here he recalled that the basic cause of the inconsistency is the application of the market and all the consequences wrought by its operation. He also noted the lack of a common development policy, hesitation over the role of the plan, and insufficient use of the processes of socialization which have emerged in our society with the introduction of self-management.

The weakest point of the propositions is that they are static and do not reflect the depth of the processes which we have been witnessing since the beginning of the eighties and the efforts to control the sources of the crisis and to carry out the transformation of society on the basis of socialist self-management, overcoming the remnants of administrative socialism. Further work should involve singling out the most acute questions, taking as a basis the problem areas which have surfaced in the SFRY Assembly in connection with the coordination of stances on the resolution on development this year, Sergej Kraigher said. [passage omitted]

I do not see in the propositions the key point from which we could make inroads into the crisis. And this is—inflation, Marjan Orozen said.

On paper we are full of verbal campaigns for a self-managing production relationship. If something is running counter to this relationship then it is inflation. It is patiently obvious what kind of production relationship there can be with a 160-percent inflation rate. We are constantly repeating that the working class must control surplus labor, though there is less and less of it. [passage omitted on the danger of going from program to program without specific solutions]

Nikola Matovski proposed that the propositions incorportate the position that the LC, in the public debate on the constitutional amendments, advocate the redistribution of legislative competences so as to give broader authority to the federation wherever the specific interests of the republics and provinces are absent. This is necessary for the realization of the constitutional conception of the federation. In the 1974 Constitution, Matovski said, some competences were removed in areas where this was not necessary and they should now be restored. This question is not only a legal one but, above all, a political and ideological one, Matovski stressed.

The LC will have increasing difficulty in achieving ideological and political cohesion in society if unity in strategic decisions is not transformed into unity in action, Ljubomir Varoslija said. The tendency toward federalization and the deformation of democratic centralism leads LC organs into a situation where they overcome slowly and inefficiently their differences and exhaust themselves in the adoption of general and principled stances which are not fully realized or are realized on the basis of disunity.

Varoslija stressed in particular that the slow overcoming of differences and the too frequent debates on marginal issues is one of the causes of the erosion of the role and authority of the party. He also drew attention, as he put it, to a configuration of phenomena which are being repeated and which for a long time already are not receding from our public political scene: First, the trend toward deepening disagreements and conflicts over the major questions of the development of the system but also over some questions which are less significant which sometimes gain the character of confrontations between republics or provinces. Second, specific debates have gained the character of everlasting controversy with undertones of interrepublican political conflicts. In this area, he noted the division of the press as well as the transformation of the process of the coordination of stances into a "Broad array of diverse pressures." This latter is certainly leading us into tactics of parliamentarialism and is distancing us more and more from the true delegate system, Varoslija stressed.

All this indicates that the pluralism of self-managing interests is gaining a completely undesired twist which is tending toward a form of political pluralism which could be very dangerous for our overall political circumstances.

Unless we halt this downward slide and ensure stable development on socialist, self-managing bases we will be confronted, as we already are partially, with two developmental alternatives—state socialism or the renewal of capitalism, Vinko Hafner warned. Although I am convinced that the majority of Yugoslav communists are aware of this, it is nevertheless felt that there is still not sufficient responsibility to transform justified concern into specific action to overcome the difficulties. Could it otherwise happen that, despite the decisions of the 13th congress, the crisis deepens?

According to Hafner, all communists are responsible for this, but each in keepening with his influence on social events. Thus, in his view, we canot accuse the party base for the current social circumstances but, above all, LC organs, among which greatest responsibility is borne by republican and provincial LC committees, the LCY Committee in the Yugoslav People's Army, and the LCY Central Committee. Turning in this connection, to the propositions for the LCY conference, Hafner said that they lack a specific conclusion on strengthening LC leaderships in terms of cadres, especially as it is evident that unless these changes take place there can be no serious changes in their practice.

It is clear that we cannot change the composition of the LCY Central Committee before the next congress, but we can and must, at least to a certain extent, change the composition of its organs and the Presidium, Hafner said. I do not dispute what members of this executive-political organ have been advocating so far, nor the serious objective difficulties in which they operate, but the unsatisfactory results of the overall work of the Presidium, including the failure to implement the numerous conclusions of this Central Committee, point to the fact that in its present composition and with its present work methods and internal relations, it has not performed its role successfully. I am not advocating the expression of some kind of general lack of confidence, but changes, to a certain extent, in its composition and internal relations.

I am convinced, Nafner said, that the LCY Central Committee Presidium is not operating sufficiently as an ideologically united and collective body. In other words, in its work, aside from other weaknesses, there is a sense of aspiration towards the federalization of the LC, Hafner assessed, adding that he has not lost sight of the fact that the LC cannot avoid some forms of federalization which originate objectively from the country's organization on this basis. The republic and provincial LCS have responsibility for their own development as well as for the development of the LCY and the country as a whole. Unfortunately, in practice these days more emphasis is being placed on the former responsibility, while the latter is ignored. There are, of course, opposing aspirations—toward the creation of a monolithic LC, which in reality never existed.

Mentioning that the presidents of the republic and provincial LC Committees have an important role in the work of the LCY Central Committee and its Presidium, Hafner observed that, on the one hand, they can be very one-sided representatives of the interests of their environments or of the leading political and managerial sectors. Speaking about the election of future presidents and secretaries of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, he said that individuals who hold these posts must be truly distinguished, progressive, and creative personalities who enjoy confidence not only in their own republic and province, but throughout the LC and among the Yugoslav public. Finally, he proposed that the conclusions about the content and method of the work of the LCY Central Committee be added to, in other words, that the LCY Central Committee oblige the Presidium, after consideration of its own cadre composition and the composition of other LCY Central Committee organs and bodies—and prior to the holding of the LCY conference—by proposing changes which would ensure their truly successful work over the next 2 years in conformity with the decisions of the 13th LCY Congress.

He also proposed that the highest party forum give the president of the Presidium the tasks of activating a special cadre commission which would prepare a proposal of the necessary cadre changes and oblige the central and provincial committees and the LCY Committee in the Yugoslav People's Army to initiate similar activities in conformity with its mandate.

For Milovan Popovic, it is illogical for the LCY Central Committee to work publicly while its Presidium, as the executive-political organ, holds closed sessions and communicates with the membership and the public by means of communiques which are bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo. Hence he proposed that the Central Committee make a statement on whether it should continue such a practice, because for him the question of the publicness of the work of the central committee and its Presidium is a key problem. [passage omitted]

The holding of closed sessions is an outmoded work method, and closed sessions in themselves, he stressed, are a bureaucratic weapon. Under the guise of closed sessions probably incapability, unpreparedness, the preservation of one's own job, position, or something else, are defended, Popovic said.

This evening the LCY Central Committee also considered a number of "topical issues of enhancing the LC's class structure." An introductory report on this topic was submitted by Ali Sukrija, member of the LCY Central Committee.

Since 1983 the membership of the LCY has been gradually declining. As a result in 1986 the number of members was by 3.2 percent down on 1983. In the first half of 1987 the membership fell by further 0.4. At the same time noticeable changes have occurred in the class, national, sex, and age structure of the LCY, Sukrija said.

There are various reasons for the decline in the LCY membership, but for us it is of importance that this decline is not primarily a result of differentation on a work or ideopolitical basis. In this connection it has to be stressed that it is primarily the number of workers and individual agricultural producers, of young people, and women that is declining.

In 1986 the following were the reasons for relinguishing LC membership: a) expulsion as a result of differentation on a work or ideopolitical basis—13 percent; b) deletion from record books or the so-called silent withdrawal from the LC- 54 percent; c) giving up LC membership of one's own accord—33 percent. The majority of those who left for all three reasons are workers—47 percent; women follow with 28 percent, and young people—23 percent. [passage omitted: workers represent largest social group in the lcy but their both relative and absolute representation is worsening]

Unsatisfactory trends in the share of young people and women in the LCY membership and discrepancies in the LCY's national structure as a vital element of the LCY's revolutionary entity are a warning signal. At one time the LCY was the youngest communist party in the wworld—today it is growing increasingly old. In other words, over the last 10 years the number of young people in the LCY fell from 34 percent to 21 percent of the LCY's total membership. [passage omitted]

These facts and realistic indicators are a strong warning to the LC to change as soon as possible its attitude toward those phenomena which, if allowed to continue and exacerbate, could have exceptionally negative effects on the LC and its efforts to implement its social role and its activity.

Over the last 15 years the LC has attracted a considerably higher number of members from state and parastatal organs and services, from the so-called administration, insurance, financial institutions, and so forth than workers from direct material production. The causes for this lie primarily in the fact that, despite clearly-defined program orientations, the LC continues to act in collusion with state organs, management, and other leading structures, thus in the final resort subjecting its social role to the interests of these structures, Sukrija said.

The LC, he continued, must invest even more efforts to ensure its foothold in the working class, to ensure continuing intake of workers into the LC, a growing workers' majority in its membership, and to create conditions for the workers' decisive influence in developing and implementing the LCY's policy and stances.

Practical results in this sphere and enhanced democratic relations in the LC will provide objective prerequisites for the LCY's increased reputation in society and increased interest within the working class and other working strata living on the results of their own labor for LC membership.

In its report Ali Sukrija focused particular attention on the issue of work, ideopolitical and moral differentation in the LCY and, by implication, in society as a whole.

Differentation must not be separated from the policy of recruitment into the LC. In an effort to be present within all social strata we failed adequately to observe recruitment criteria. As a result the LC includes members who morally, ideologically, or politically will never be able to identify themselves with the working class' historic interests.

Such a state of affairs calls on us to tighten the policy of admission into the LC, consistently to implement admission critieria, but also to be decisive in opening up the

process of differentation on the basis of our principles and genuine commitment of all communists and to rid the LC of those who whould never have been allowed into our ranks.

The same amount of attention should be devoted to analyzing the reasons which prompt people to leave the ranks of the working class' vanguard. Our attitude toward this phenomenon must not be one of passivity and opportunism.

It is inadmissible that the LC has remained insensitive to the fact that it is losing the enormous class-revolutionary and creative potential concentrated among its rank and file, Sukrija stressed. [passage omitted]

At the end of his report Sukrija insisted that the monitoring of the membership trends should become a permanent task for all basic LC organizations and organs, as this is the only way in which problems can be detected on time, and shortcomings which are likely to have a negative effect on the efforts to strengthen the working class composition of the LCY's membership can be removed. [passage omitted]

The fact that workers, women, and young people are in the majority among those who leave the LCY is no coincidence, as Hasimp Redzepi stressed, because these are the people who have been pushed to the sidelines in the decisionmaking process. They have been worst affected by the economic crisis and have, as a result, lost direction for resolving existing problems.

Speaking about the young people's position in society and their attitude toward the LCY, Redzepi said that the Kosovo LC has succeeded in winning over new forces from the ranks of all nations and nationalities. The increased interest among Kosovo's young people in LCY membership indicates a heightened awareness of the fact that the problems can be resolved only by toeing the LC line, Redzepi stressed.

There is an indisputable link between weakness in the work of the LC organs and the state of passivity of a large number of organizations and members. It is not for us, therefore, to instruct, reprimand, or express disatisfaction anywhere or in regard to anyone, unless we start first and foremost with ourselves, Bosko Krunic emphasized. We will never have monolithic unity and should not cry out for it. In my view, the criticism that we in the leadership are not in accord, and that we keep quiet about the fact, is not justified. It is quite normal for there to be disagreement and conflict of views, for one must live along with differences. What should be a source of concern is that we are finding it increasingly difficult to come to agreement, and then the authority of the agreed policy—expressed in the form of resolutions and decisions, and so on—is increasingly weakened.

The political crisis we are all talking about, as a natural consequence of the lengthy economic crisis, is being manifested in our country in increasing difficulties, and frequently paralysis in working out and defining political standpoints. The efficiency of the federation is at a low level. We are increasingly blocked in developing policies and in implementing them, Krunic went on. Political solutions cannot, of course, be imposed. Agreements are in the nature of self-managing organization and, in particular, of the federation. Life in common and joint development of relations is not some sort of evil destiny, but rather is the condition for existence. There have also been tendencies toward disintegration before. With the economic crisis and the exhaustion of the economy, with the huge outflow of national income and the impoverishment of associated labor, all negative tendencies grow in strength, all the cracks grow wider, all shortcomings in the way that self-management functions increase, and all difficulties in bringing about a synthesis of differing interests are becoming greater.

The crisis has emptied the economy and the sociopolitical communities, and this enhances the responsibility for one's own development and for togetherness, that is, for understanding others' problems. We cannot adopt a collision course in which both sides lose. The policy of majority decision making, centralism, and decision by directive have all long since failed the test, but isolationism, unwillingness to come to accord, and unwillingness for making agreement and equality are also failing the test—this is our destiny and our choice. time and again the Central Committee and the Presidium have stressed these orientations, but the fact is that these orientations should be foreseen, such tendencies should be discussed specifically, should be clearly and publicly spelled out and corrections made. This is, of course, always easier to say than to achieve, but we do indeed have good experience of this. We must work on this, not only where economic policy is concerned, but also when coordinating ideopolitical actions in other spheres of life, as well as when exposing hostile and other opposing optioins. We must be more determined and persist in implementing our decisions, and must nip indiscipline and negative tendencies and manifestations in the bud. The crisis demands this, and our responsibility is in this sense being particularly tested here. Our existential problems are resolved in the economic sphere.

Our destiny depends upon the growth in output, exports, reduction in inflation, restructuring of the economy, technological development, changes in the economic system, opening up to the world and upon bringing into play all possible potential for accumulating means for development. The work of the Central Committee and the Presidium must therefore be focused upon drawing up competent decisions, as rapidly as possible and getting away from dogmatic conceptions about socialism and from stagnation as rapidly as possible. We are entering a period of serious self-denial in the consumption sphere. It is necessary to pool a small amount of capital for production and for the needs of changes in the

economic structure; working people organized in a self-managing way must be associated in bringing about a radical reduction in overhead costs, and social tensions must be tolerated. Serious political strength and quite a few new, bold and willing people are needed for all this.

Underlining that the Central Committee should opt for making members of the Central Committee fully involved in joint action to overcome the crisis, Krunic added that political actions should be set in motion in the Socialist Alliance on a number of the main issues, in order to explain the goals, extent, and ways of effecting changes in the economic system.

I am saying things that are more or less well-known, but I am convinced, he said, that this is necessary, because the preoccupations and accountability of a large number of leaderships are not in proportion either to the needs or to the potential, nor are they in accord with the responsibility they have at this time. Other issues should not be belittled, but it should be borne in mind that positive trends in all spheres are possible and are dependent upon the development of the economy and production relations. The struggle against negative tendencies and hostile phenomena will be the more successful, depending upon the extent to which our system of socialist self-management finds its affirmation in material development and the development of self-management. Further, debates about non-self-managing and counter revolutionary political activities must be conducted in sociopolitical organizations and on public platforms. For, he commented, what do we gain if the organs of the LC or individual officials give voice to harsh words about hostile activity in the country, if citizens themselves do not condemn and reject it? We are all noticing that political life is being burdened by some sort of contrived confrontations. There is increasing intolerance, differences, and divisions which are becoming increasingly open. National relations are deteriorating. An incessant quiet war is being waged by some national institutions and individuals through the media, and it is clear that it is not the press that has declared war. Although it is no consolation, one must conclude that we are coping well with the relations and state of affairs we inherited.

Today we have 70,000 basic organizations and over LC 1,000 organs, Krunic said. Accountability must everywhere be implemented actively and in practice. The FEC is responsible for planning pricing policy in the domain within its competence, but everyone is putting up their prices—including the sociopolitical communities and organizations of associated labor. The FEC is responsible for planning policy and taking measures to reduce inflation, but inflation is swelling up like gound water from numerous capillaries, whose openings we are ourselves making wider. It is easy to say that the way out does not lie in a freeze, that that is not our prospect, that that is not the "normal state of affairs." But we agreed to that, we assessed that that policy and that measure were necessary, and this is where we have ended up. We are in a situation where regulations are flouted on a mass scale. The Central Committee is responsible for airing problems, stimulating debates on social issues, and we are all responsible for ideopolitical trneds and topical issues on which the Central Committee takes stands. In the matter of the struggle against inflation, therefore, everyone is on his own ground, Bosko Krunic said, among other things.

The last speaker in the debate, on the first two points of the agenda, was Milan Kucan. According to him, the central issue is whether the LC will continue, while preparing for the conference and after it, to spin around unsuccessfully within closed horizons and waste its strength on mutual squabbles and secondary issues. Whether it will waste strength hunting the unacceptable ideas of increasingly numerous enemies, while leaving the real issues to spontaneous elements or in fact to those enemies, who both do and do not exist. At the same time, he said that anti-communism and anti-socialism are a topic on their own, but the conference will have to deal with that. Kucan refrained from speaking in any further detail on this, saying that such phenomena also exist in Slovenia. But in order to get a precise answer on the extent of their real strength, what they are founded upon, their real basis, and the extent of their force should be put right in life, instead of defending one's own position by means of a monopoly inperpretation of the interests of the working class. [passage omitted]

Warning of the possible grave economic, social, and political consequences if world technical development is not followed, Kucan stressed that people will not want to live in such a Yugoslavia. They will not be reconciled to such a destiny, whether we want to admit it or not.

The fall in the number of members and the change in the class-social structure of the LC is a unique expression of criticism of the LC policy, Nedelko Trajkovski said, among other things. He recalled that dropping out of LC members is characteristic of all parts of the LCY except for the Macedonian and Kosovo LC's. [passage omitted]

The members of the LCY Central Committee concluded their discussion by adopting stands on strengthening the social class composition of the LCY. This brought to an end today's 12-hour debate in which 35 speakers took part.

The Central Committee continues its work tomorrow.

TANJUG Reviews Session

LD012338 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1102 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 1 Mar (TANJUG)—The 13th session of the LCY Central Committee continued today in Belgrade. In keeping with their statutory obligations, members of the highest party forum are considering the implementation of the conclusions of the ninth Central Committee plenum on Kosovo. Also on the agenda is

confirmation of the stances of the two action conferences—of journalists and of employees in the pharmaceutical industry. It is also expected that the Central Committee will establish proposals for the preparation of the LCY conference and adopt conclusions on the content and work methods of LCY organs, which was discussed yesterday.

The implementation of the conclusions of the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee has been approached in a responsible, timely, and organized way throughout the LCY. The conclusions have provided a stimulus for the activity of subjective forces of society throughout the LCY, especially in the Kosovo LC and the Serbian LC. Here stress should be laid on the broad nature, the Yugoslav character of these activities—which is a significant move forward—and the special quality in our struggle for the stabilization of the overall situation and further development of Kosovo.

This was stressed by Vukasin Loncar, executive secretary of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, at the beginning of the 2d day of the 13th LCY Central committee session, explaining information about the implementation of the conclusions of the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee on Kosovo. He said that the information was based on data about the activity of LCY organs and the Federation. [passage omitted]

Loncar assessed that certain positive results are being achieved through the better organized activity of the LC and other subjective forces in implementing the conclusions of the ninth session, and said that a process of change has begun in numerous fields of social life. Activity has been oriented in a more significant way to solve concrete social and existential problems of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo.

In the struggle to consolidate the situation in Kosovo, greater cooperation has been achieved, particularly unity in political views and actions in the organs of the LC of Serbia, the LC of Kosovo, and in state and self-managing organs and organizations. The agreement on constitutional changes in the SR of Serbia is an important contribution to the affirmation of the orientation toward joint and responsible work in seeking and finding solutions to open questions.

Loncar adds that a series of concrete measures and activities have been taken to improve the work of state organs and organs of the administration, judiciary, inspection, and public services. However, the efficiency and awareness of today's problems in many of them continues to be unsatisfactory, something which requires an uncompromising attitude toward bureaucracy and phenomena of abitrary behavior in organs and by individuals.

More visible progress has been achieved in the strengthening of the organized forces of defense and security, Loncar said. This has contributed, in particular, to the ever-improving cooperation and joint work of sociopolitical and specialist organs of the province, the SR of Serbia, and the federation. Social self-protection, considered as a whole, has however not made any significant progress. This will continue to be one of the priority tasks. [passage omitted]

He stressed that the emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins, despite measures and actions taken to halt it, especially in one or two municipalities, continues unabated. Since this is a matter of one of the most serious political, economic, social, and moral problems in Yugoslav society, it continues to be vital for there to be a complete, decisive, and direct concrete social action with the primary goal of halting emigration. [passage omitted]

There should be no illusions about being able to solve the numerous and complex problems in Kosovo between the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee (CC) and today, that is, in the last 9 months. Nevertheless, in the assessment of Perko Vukotic, the first participant in the debate, the expectations that were raised at that session were in large measure realizable. After the ninth plenum, he said, more organizational and other preconditions were created for the stabilization of the overall situation in the province than in the 6 previous years. [passage omitted]

Since the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee, concrete measures have been taken in ideopolitical differentiation, Vojislav Zajic said, and cited some statistics. In the period under review in the province, 154 members have been expelled from the LC, 128 were given a final warning, and 290 LC members received warnings. At the same time, he said, 35 secretaries of basic organizations and 21 members of presidia and municipal committees have been replaced. [passage omitted]

Despite the results achieved in many fields of social life, the political-security situation continues to be complex, Zajic said. The perfidious hostile activity based on Albanian nationalism and separatism and supported by and in league with Albanian hostile emigration is continuing. Organized illegal propaganda activity by Albanian nationalists, which is expressed in the distribution of pamphlets and petitions, is spreading.

Despite increased efficiency in solving many problems, the dissatisfaction among the Serbian and Montenegrin population has not yet been overcome. This, Zajic stressed, provides objective scope for Serbian nationalism. The emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins continues with almost the same intensity. However, the Yugoslav program for Kosovo has created economic conditions for increasing employment, and it is expected, in tandem with other measures in the sphere of citizens' legal and safety protection, to halt the emigration. [passage omitted]

The Macedonian LC has achieved continuity in its action to develop intranational relations and the brotherhood and unity of Yugoslav nations and nationalities. On that basis, it has also been carrying out consistent and vigorous action against all manifestations of nationalism, particularly against Albanian nationalism and separatism, Jakov Lazarski stressed.

The Macedonian LC Central Committee's program of implementing the conclusions of the ninth session has encouraged practically all relevant subjects to outline their duties and tasks. This direction of the action has received widespread support from the working people and citizens in Macedonia.

Manifestations of Albanian nationalism and separatism continue to have a destabilizing effect on the political-security situation in the republic. However, it is important that as a result of the action by subjective forces, awareness has been growing that the struggle against Albanian nationalism and separatism is a prerequisite, not just for consolidation in intranational relations and political stabilization in general, but also for an unhindered realization of equality for the Albanian nationality in the SR of Macedonia.

This was a strong incentive for members of the Albanian nationality in the SR of Macedonia to become increasingly involved in the ideopolitical action against Albanian nationalism and separatism, especially immediately after the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee and in the efforts to implement the all-Yugoslav program for Kosovo.

In recent months, however, the Macedonian LC's action and the action by all subjective forces in Macedonia in general has been, Lazaroski warned, presented in a distorted way in some parts of the country and by certain sections of the media. Tendentious and distorted reporting about this action has been using familiar stereotypes about an alleged large-scale anti-Albanian mood in the SR of Macedonia. The Macedonian LC has even been accused of deviating from the established course of action against and LCY's policy over Albanian nationalism and separatism. Of particular concern is the fact that such ideas have not been put forward just by nationalist circles or individuals.

This, he stressed, is in stark contrast to the real sociopolitical situation in the SR of Macedonia and with the character and effects of the activity by the Macedonian LC and the subjective forces in the republic. Both the Macedonian LC and the wider public in the republic firmly and unanimously reject and denounce such insinuations and tendentious reporting.

We are hearing increasingly frequent allegations about how the linguistic, cultural, and political integrity of the Albanian nationality in Macedonia has been threatened. As an explanation, claims are being voiced about the alleged cases where restrictions have been imposed on the use of the Albanian language in education, in the use of topographic names, and in the use of the flag. These claims were first used by Albanian nationalists and separatists as far back as 1968. In 1981 these claims were used as the main instrument of indoctrination among young people and in organizing hostile activities. However, Lazaroski said, the truth is that the SR of Macedonia has never employed any measures to restrict the constitutional and legal rights of the Albanian nationality in the republic. [passage omitted]

Albanian nationalism and separatism have been at their most aggressive in the sphere of education and upbringing. Most damage has been done here through nationalist indoctrination of young people of Albanian nationality. The Macedonian LC's action in the ideopolitical differentiation, therefore, has been most intensive in education, where notable results have already been achieved.

The fulfillment of our development goal through implementing an active population policy—a task set by the all-Yugoslav program for Kosovo—has been used as false evidence of the existence of an anti-Albanian mood in the SR of Macedonia and even of some kind of state-supported Macedonian nationalism, Lazaroski noted.

In practice, the economic nature of an active population policy is being tendentiously interpreted as an element of repression of the Albanian nationality. In reality, however, the goal is quite different. The fact is being ignored that the high birth rate in the underdeveloped part of the SR of Macedonia does not lead to poverty alone but is also one of the generators of the economic crisis with serious consequences for the personal and social standard of living. It has been inferred that on the basis of the present average birthrate that by the year 2000 the SR of Macedonia will have to provide over 800,000 new jobs. From both an economic and social aspect, this is a very difficult task.

The results we have achieved in the sphere of ideopolitical differentiation and against the proponents of Albanian nationalism and separatism, above all in education, have been used as evidence to prove widespread repression against those of Albanian nationality in the SR of Macedonia. At the same time the Albanian nationality is unjustifiably being identified with Albanian nationalists and separatists, and our efforts to observe constitutionality and law are being identified with repression. No further comment is necessary, Lazaroski said.

The idea about a widespread anti-Albanian mood in the SR of Macedonia fits successfully into the enemy's general plan for the country's disintegration and for inciting intranational conflicts. For this reason it is most often presented in combination with the claim about growing Macedonian nationalism.

There are cases of Macedonian nationalism, and the Macedonian LC's attitude toward them is identical to its attitude toward Albanian nationalism. This is become it is a part of its struggle against all types of nationalism. However, it is quite unacceptable that these isolated cases of Macedonian nationalism are identified with and represented as evidence of a widespread anti-Albanian mood in the SR of Macedonia. This identification is neither accidental nor naive. It is potentially a factor for the country's political-security destabilization, Kakov Lazaroski said. [passage ommitted]

The main positive results of the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee, according to Zoran Sokolovic, lie in the fact that the awareness has been gaining ground that Kosovo is an all-Yugoslav problem and that Kosovo has begun to open toward Yugoslavia and vice versa. The Yugoslav view of Kosovo has become clearer, and we are becoming increasingly convinced that the battle can be won. [passage omitted]

Among the results of the Serbian LC's activity, we can include some positive changes—there has been an improvement in the citizens' security. State and administrative organs have become more efficient; responsibility has been heightened; economic cooperation is expanding. These results have been a great encouragement, but it was not easy to achieve them.

Sokolovic went on to stress that, however, there had been no change in the overall situation in Kosovo. Emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins under duress continues unabated. Last year 2,828 Serbs and Montenegrins moved out of the province. There were 527 various attacks and pressures on Serbs and Montenegrins—a considerable increase on the preceding 2 years. This clearly indicates that the activity of Albanian nationalists and separatists has not been eradicated.

Sokolovic pointed in his address to the inadequate activity of subjective forces. In this context he said that the degree of organization and intensity of work, especially in the LC leaderships, was greater than ever before, but the situation called for an even greater effort. He mentioned that there still attempts to replace action with analyses of the situation. We cannot accept that a balance and symmetry should be made where none exists and where you cannot do it, stressed Sokolovic. [passage omitted]

Referring to the recent Kosovo Polje meeting, which he assessed as positive, Sokolovic said that it had been dominated by cogent, objective and well-argued debate on very serious problems, which for years have been weighing down the life of the people in that environment and province. Stock was taken realistically of a delicate political situation, the causes were analyzed and solutions proposed which will be translated into a concrete program.

The meeting has manifested full confidence in the LC and demanded that we should move into action faster. The Communists of Kosovo Polje demonstrated that they have the strength to resist any nationalistic and destructive activity and that they are a genuine force capable of resolving the problems. [passage omitted]

Tosum Pahumi believes that the move to amend LC actions in order to radically change the situation in Kosovo has not been fully successful. He spoke in detail of what is being done in Skopje to carry out the conclusions of the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee: in particular he pointed out the details that referred to the position of the members of the Albanian nationality in the educational system.

Pahumi expressed his dissatisfaction with the manner and substance in which the actions the Macedonian LC used to carry out the conclusions of the ninth session were interpreted in some environments. For us members of the Albanian nationality in the SR of Macedonia, Pahumi said, any form of paternalism and false concern for us represented and represents an extreme form of scorn and insult. Behind that there stand the theses about the inferiority of the Albanian nationality, cowardice, and betrayal of "national interests," said Pahumi, who was the last speaker in the debate on the implementation of the tasks of the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee.

Central Committee members then unanimously approved the report on the implementation of the conclusions of the ninth session. Continuing their work, the members of the highest party forum also approved the stands of the action conferences of communist journalists and of Communists in the pharmaceutical industry.

Returning to the discussion on the theses for the LCY conference that the working group amplified with the proposals made during the debate yesterday, Ivan Brigic, as the keynote speaker, said that the view that it would be difficult to prepare a document that was at the same time open, stimulating, and provocative, and also short and clear, proved to be correct. However, he said, one should bear in mind the fact that the theses are not a congress resolution. He added that in the evaluation of the working group they represented a good basis for a democratic debate at the grassroot level. It has also been confirmed that the theses faithfully expressed the basic concerns of the League of Communist at this juncture or, alternatively, that despite some compromises and imperfections, they left out nothing of substance. [passage omitted]

Dobrivoje Vidic was dissatisfied with the section of the theses that speaks of the objective of the LCY conference. He suggested what in his view is a clearer formulation—that it should "provide the basis for the platform of LC action in the general effort of our society to identify the causes and the consequences" of the crisis in which the country finds itself.

I was one of those, Sergej Kraigher said, who advocated a different approach to the theses. However, I see that the working group insists on the old practice of prettying up and "gilding the lily." This practice is very good for international relations. It will not do for relations in Yugoslavia.

We should not be satisfied with the explanation that what has been proposed as a supplement does not contradict the theses. At the conference we should listen to one another carefully, but the theses do not provide a basis for that. We must see that problems are central to our political and economic life. Generic theses virtually run away from responsibility.

We say, Kraigher said, that in the Federal Assembly views are coordinated slowly and with difficulty. What is happening there, Kraigher stressed, is only an expression of our political work. We criticize the practice of coming back constantly to issues that have already been cleared up, yet we are now doing the same thing, although we clarified the issues during the past congress, Kraigher said. [passage omitted]

We will be discussing the LC during the forthcoming conference, and it is impossible to avoid the questions of leadership, election, and terms of office, said Marko Orlandic. The conference, he recalled, does not have the right to pass any decisions, but it can and must point out the manifestations that should be critically reexamined.

I was prevented from being present during the work of the working group, said Bosko Krunic, so I cannot form a judgment about what happened to concrete proposals. The weight of the work, he said, should be on what the conference will end with. As far as Kraigher's proposal is concerned, he would have been right if instead of the theses we had opted for a platform.

Vukasin Loncar believes that the LC is duty-bound to critically reexamine how collective work and the length of the mandate are being implemented, irrespective of the mandate's duration—1 or 2 years. However, he added, it is not the function of the LCY Central Committee to prejudge the solution, because the solution will stem from this debate.

We have not yet critically examined collective work, recalled Loncar, and then wondered why bureaucratism and formalism are linked exclusively with the 1-year mandate, as if they did not exist in a 4-year mandate. [passage omitted]

After the theses for the LCY conference—with proposed amendments and supplements—were adopted, Bosko Krunic recalled that this meeting will be of a working nature within the full meaning of the word, which means that there will be no guests. He also recalled the commitment of republican and provincial LC organizations and of the LCY Committee in the Yugoslav People's Army to submit to the LCY Central Committee Presidium by 20 April a summary of their organizations' discussions on the theses for the conference.

Radisa Gacic then spoke on behalf of the working group for drawing up the conclusions on the substance and method of work of the LCY Central Committee and its organs and bodies.

The working group has examined all the suggestions brought up in the debate, while during its session this morning the LCY Central Committee Presidium also made its views known on some important and concrete proposals, said Gacic. The Presidium noted that in connection with the first and second items on the agenda of this session it was up against some very serious tasks in taking stock of the critical assessments concerning its work and regarding the solution of the problems that had been brought up. [passage omitted]

Referring subsequently to the proposal that a special session of the LCY Central Committee be held within the next month or so, Gacic said that the Presidium took the view that there were no differences of principle among its members in relation to the program and congress orientations. Differences on concrete issues were manifested both among the members of the Presidium as well as among the members of the LCY Central Committee, as was seen during this discussion. This is not new, and it is not always alarming. A greater problem is a different attitude toward what had been adopted and agreed on and the inconsistent and nonunited implementation of agreed stands and conclusions of the LCY Central Committee that must be taken stock of especially within the Presidium with a view to promoting its work. We will be discussing the differences in the LCY Central Committee Presidium, in other organs and institutions of the system, and in the Central Committee itself; therefore we do not believe that the differences can be brought up and discussed at one single session. The reason is that the differences are not a static and immutable category. They stem from life, and so they must be resolved as they emerge. [passage omitted]

Not only the Central Committee, we too are dissatisfied with the work of the Central Committee Presidium, he said. However, the problem is not principally in the composition of the Presidium or whether anyone individually makes the work of the Presidium and the Central Committee difficult, it is rather in all the things that, objectively speaking, make our work difficult. I have already enumerated some issues that, objectively speaking, make our work difficult. And, as far as organizational issues are concerned, it should be said that in addition to the cadre setup the questions are raised on the size of both the Central Committee, the Presidium, the commissions, the number of executive secretaries, etc. They have to be identified primarily within the framework of the preparations for the next congress and

changes to the LCY statute, and brought up in the preparations for the conference and during the conference itself. [passage omitted]

As far as the proposal on electing a standing working Presidium, we think that the proposal is not acceptable, stressed Gacic.

If this is to be the presidium with the present powers of the working presidium, then in reality nothing would change except that this body would not be elected at its session. If its powers were to be changed, then that would undeniably change the nature and the status of the Presidium of the LCY Central Committee as an executive and political organ and would impinge on the overall organization and method of work of the Central Committee and even the overall organizational structure of the LC organs. These are changes of a structural nature that can be brought up within the framework of the impending changes to the LCY statute.

Gacic stressed in conclusion that the amendment that makes it incumbent on the Central Committee at least once a year to discuss the implementation of the role of the highest LCY organ had been incorporated into the text of the conclusions.

After a brief debate, the highest party forum approved the conclusions on the substance and the method of the work of the LCY Central Committee, and of its organs and bodies.

LCY Journalism Conference Called 'Successful'

AU011338 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 23 Feb 88 p 8

[R.Petrovic report: "If a Journalist Runs From Politics, What Is Left of Journalism?"]

[Text] The first political reaction from the LCY Central Committee to the meeting of journalists who are LC members was made at yesterday's joint session of the Conference Preparation Committee and the Commission for Conclusions, at which information on this meeting was prepared for today's session of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, and the stances were defined that should be adopted by the LCY Central Committee next Monday. It was also the occasion for a re-opening of the discussion on problems that had been discussed at the conference and for commenting on some reviews and articles in some publications that dealt with the journalists' conference.

In the opinion of Marko Lolic, contradictory information about the conference was appearing, as well as disdain that could have a dangerous effect on political activity.

"The conference was basically successful. LC influence had been strengthened in this field, the responsibility of the press had been clearly indicated, as well as some relations with society," said Lolic, mentioning that despite warnings before the conference, individuals had used this meeting to bicker and to quarrel.

Franc Setinc also replied to comments which could be read in some publications in the last few days. He particularly mentioned NIN improperly saying "that this conference should be forgotten as soon as possible," and the DELO headline that described the conference as "A Repeat of What Is Already Known." Setinc in particular refuted the claim in some articles in DANAS and VJESNIK that his introductory speech was changed under pressure from the LCY Central Committee Presidium, because it had originally been much more liberal:

"There was no liberal version of the speech that the LCY Central Committee Presidium did not like. I am saying this in order to deny such claims. Above all, this offends me as a person, as I am not like that." Setinc was adamant, mentioning that his own convictions had led him to criticize the unjustified naming in the press of some members of the LCY Central Committee because of their different opinions.

Vukasin Micunovic, president of the Conference Preparation Committee, dealt with remarks about the selection of delegates of the working presidium and of the Commission for Conclusions, which had appeared in some of the first newspaper commentaries after the conference. In his opinion, the Central Committee has the right to voice its own opinion, and it seems that this fact is neglected. Micunovic interpretes this sort of "forgetfulness" as a consequence of the marked inclination at the conference not toward autonomy but toward the independence of the profession.

"The professional solidarity of journalists has reached the point where journalists are called direct producers, as if it is not the job of editors and newspaper people who have become political officials to be involved in this field. This is a consequence of the obvious intervention of the political leadership in the press, so that journalists who are LC members become as prickly as hedgehogs," said Micunovic, criticizing the fact that there is too much discussion about whether a journalist is a sociopolitical worker or not, as if it is a question of the devaluing of the profession. In the end Micunovic "did not spare" the politicians criticism either, remarking that they could use the press in a much better way than they have done until now, in judging the effects of their own work in addressing, convincing, and winning over the political public.

Milan Rakas saw the whole discussion after the conference and individual critical articles as a result of the prevailing attitude that we expect every meeting to be a turning point and all our sessions to be "historic." Finally it seems that we forget what should be done after the political meetings.

"Every reasonable person can see that politics boils down to politicians and journalism to professional journalists in editorial offices, and that the two sides oppose each other," said Rakas, stressing that we should not let the distance that journalists put between themselves and everyday pragmatism in politics become journalism's escape from politics, as "what would then become of journalism." In his opinion, "we give lessons to our comrades on the culture of dialogue, and it was unpleasant to listen to party comrades 'scolding' each other at the conference and meditating on brains and guts."

Mikulic Meets Development Conference Delegation

LD030359 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1752 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—FEC President Branko Mikulic received in Belgrade today a delegation of the Conference for Development of Local Communities of Yugoslavia, comprising President Moma Milanovic, Secretary Leopold Mokotar, and Deputy Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the Consumers' Council of Yugoslavia Robert Kramer.

Briefing the FEC president on the March campaigns—"Consumer Month 88" and "Consumers and Trade," which will be held on 10 March this year in Zagreb—and on the present and future activities of the Conference for the Development of Local Communities of Yugoslavia, the members of the delegation are reported to have stressed the importance of this social organization's undertakings for creating an integrated network of consumer councils in the country. Among the specific initiatives and campaigns under way, a special place is allotted in the conference's activities to: linking the activities of consumer centers from all over the country to promote the quality of consumer goods; removing the barriers to free trade in goods throughout the country by conducting a so-called Open Town campaign; developing the network of discount shops and department stores operating on the principle of lower prices-more trade; forming consumer purchase cooperatives in work organizations and local communities with the aim of supplying the population in a more organized way with good quality, cheap goods; establishing permanent exhibitions of examples of consumer goods, in order to create conditions for acquiring better-quality imported goods at more accessible prices; and popularizing and disseminating a so-called consumer code in order to encourage and direct consumer purchasing power toward work organizations that guarantee them the proper attitude to goods purchase.

Discussion turned in particular upon a number of difficulties regarding putting organized consumers on a broader basis as subjects in market relations. In this connection, the Conference for Development of Local Communities of Yugoslavia will draw up special, detailed information on its initiatives and campaigns and on the problems it comes across in its activities and will present the information for discussion at an FEC session.

Expressing backing for the initiatives and campaigns expounded by the members of the delegation, FEC President Branko Mikulic particularly emphasized the very important role and place of the Conference for the Development of Local Communities of Yugoslavia, and especially in the present situation of the struggle to reduce inflation and stabilize the economy. Every step that furthers the economic behavior of producers, trade, and consumers, and thereby helps to stabilize the market and prevent the flouting of the adopted economic policy, that is, the decision on prices and quality of goods, especially foodstuffs—and the conference's activities are in pursuit of that aim—also helps to stabilize and develop our economy, the FEC president believes.

Former Kosovo Leader Bakali Stripped of Rank

AU031509 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 24 Feb 88 p 6

[Z.Z. report: "Mahmut Bakali Stripped of Rank of Reserve Captain"]

[Text] Mahmut Bakali, one of the former provincial leaders responsible for the outbreak of the counterrevolution of Albanian nationalists and separatists, has been expelled from the Kosovo Federation of Reserve Officers. The meeting dealing with his expulsion, and the discussions with him, lasted more than 6 hours. Following this meeting Bakali was expelled and stripped of the rank of reserve captain by a unanimous decision of the court of honor.

Official Withdraws From Slovenian Elections

LD012018 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1831 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Ljubljana, March 1 (TANJUG)—Andrej Marinc, 58, member of the Presidency of Slovenia, today withdrew his candidacy for republican presidency president.

In a letter to the Socialist Alliance of Slovenia which nominated him for the post, Marinc said that he felt responsible for the current situation in society and that he did not want the post to be burdened by the past.

He said he was partly to blame for the situation in Slovenia, therefore rejecting claims that he should bear sole responsibility for that.

The Slovenian Socialist Alliance put forth six nominations for the presidency president, including that of Marinc.

Marinc said he was withdrawing the candidacy also because he did not wish to be a "stumbling block in the choosing of a possible candidate for that post."

The president of the presidency of Slovenia is elected for a two-year term.

SFRY Denies Rumors of Asylum for Nasir's Son

LD031522 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1417 GMT 3 Mar 88

['Pool' item]

[Text] Belgrade, March 3 (TANJUG)—Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, son to Egypt's one-time President Nasir, has not been given political asylum in Yugoslavia, Aleksander Stanic, press spokesman for Yugoslavia's Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, told his press conference here today.

Khalid al-Nasir has visited Yugoslavia as a tourist several times now, but has neither sought any contact with the Yugoslav authorities nor they have had any reason for looking for him, Ambassador Stanic said. "Simply, he could behave like many other foreign tourists in our country," Stanic added.

To date, Yugoslavia has not received any request for handing Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir over, Stanic said. "There have been no other motives for us to look into this matter," he added.

Egypt's public prosecutor has accused Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir of his allegedly being involved in terrorism and asked for death sentence to be pronounced on him.

Spokesman on Expectations for Gorbachev Visit

LD031449 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1404 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, March 3 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav expects substantive exchanges of views with Soviet Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev during his upcoming visit to Belgrade, a Yugoslav Government spokesman, Ambassador Aleksander Stanic stated today.

Belgrade's expectations are understandable in view of the important processes and changes in the world, "which we will analyze, proceeding from our positions on international relations and our view of how they should further develop", Ambassador Stanic set out

The Yugoslav Government spokesman said that attention in the talks would be devoted also to ways how further to advance the fruitful Yugoslav-Soviet bilateral cooperation and that it was natural that the visit produce a substantive joint document.

Speaking at a regular news conference at the Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat, Stanic recalled that Soviet party leader Gorbachev would visit Yugoslavia in the middle of the month. He added that assistant Soviet foreign minister Vadim Laginov had visited Belgrade recently, so that preparations for the Gorbachev visit were practically nearly completed.

Further on Gorbachev Visit

AU031005 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian
2 Mar 88 p 1

[T. Milinovic report: "Three Topics for Discussion"]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Mar—After the five meetings with Yugoslav leaders he has had since March 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev will pay his first visit to the SFRY in mid-March.

The first meeting between the Soviet leader and members of the Yugoslav leadership was held in March 1985 after Gorbachev's election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, while the last meeting took place last November during a visit by a top Yugoslav delegation at the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the October revolution.

On his arrival in Belgrade and during his stay in Belgrade, the prominent guest will hold talks on relations between the two countries, the world situation, and trends in the international workers and communist movement—this was stated today at a regular press briefing by Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Administration of the USSR Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The chief of the Information Administration did not go into details about the general secretary's visit to our country, nor was he specific about the duration of the visit.

All today's Soviet newspapers carry front-page reports on Gorbachev's visit to Yugoslavia. Brief reports state that, at the invitation of the SFRY Presidency and the LCY Central Committee Presidium, the General Secretary will pay an official and friendly visit to Yugoslavia in mid-March.

The news on the visit was first reported on Soviet television last night.

Shultz Sends Message on Balkan Meeting

LD021812 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1720 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, March 2 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budomir Loncar received today a message from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The message favourably assesses the results of the Balkan ministerial meeting and says that the U.S. Government welcomes the efforts made by the Balkan states to find practical ways of reducing tension and promoting cooperation in the region.

Loncar has received a number of messages of support from world statesmen on the occasion of the Balkan ministerial meeting, including those from U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and others.

Romania Walking on 'Old Road' of Development

AU031208 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 1 Mar 88 p 7

[Milovan Jaukovic commentary "Old Road Out of the Crisis"]

[Text] Speaking at the National Council of the Working People, President Nicolae Ceausescu mentioned the Brasov events for the first time. However, this public admission, despite the partial justification of the workers behavior, failed to give a clear picture of the real background and essence of that which the head of the Romanian party and state termed "anarchic actions."

Just as in numerous other crisis situations to date, the sole culprits for everything are the replaced leaderships of Brasov factories and the failure to obey the country's laws. When observed in connection with previous moves, such an assessment can mean only one thing: The Romanian leadership continues to walk resolutely along the old road of social development. The last hopes that the country's leadership, confronted with the demands of the reality in the post-Brasov era, could still turn toward some reforms have therefore faded.

Two Postulates [subhead]

Resistance to any changes in the social system is based solely on official Romanian interpretations of scientific socialism with whose principles, it is claimed, everybody must comply, regardless of the specificities of individual countries that are justified by objective laws.

In short, the essence of this view is made up of two postulates. First of all, according to these assertions, the market socialism of free competition and private property are a step backward and have nothing in common with socialism.

"Any form of capital remains a type of capitalist ownership, while scientific socialism is based exclusively on the existence of socialist ownership over means of production as the only road toward the comprehensively developed socialist society," Ceausescu said on several occasions last year.

On the other hand, an anathema has been pronounced on the concept of autonomy and self-management of enterprises and economy without the party's mixing into management. This concept has been denied any connection with the principles of scientific socialism.

Starting from such theoretical premises, state ownership, together with the key role of the state in planning economy, remains the decisive component of the national economy. In the political sphere, this view is manifested through the strictest centralism, absolute party monopoly over power, and limits imposed on political and creative initiatives.

At the fifth national party conference, Ceausescu rounded off the scope of maneuvers along the Romanian road to socialism. On this occasion he reiterated his total conviction that the Romanian concept of socialist buildup is not only good, but is also an edifying example for all countries, and he advocated its constant perfection and revolutionary changes.

Cosmetics Are Not Enough [subhead]

Romanian practice to date, however, does not give much ground for such assertions. One could find even fewer arguments for such consistent views in the empirical experience of the development of the world socialist process. First of all, the Romanian concept of social development is neither new nor particularly original. Socialist thought has arrived at the irrefutable knowledge that such a model exhausted its creative forces and potential long ago. Insistence on the normative concept and on the definition of state ownership on the one hand and state and party administration on the other is the main generator of the crisis in the socialist world today. Denying ownership as a primarily economic category and carrying out bureaucratic arbitration everywhere have not only produced stagnation and backwardness in both the spiritual and material sphere, but have also been moving socialism away from the ultimately proclaimed aim—communism. It has also turned out that crises in socialism cannot be solved by so-called cosmetic changes—adapting and developing the existing economic and other mechanism.

However, the Romanian leadership continues to firmly stand on the position that it is going along the right road toward communism.

Albanian Journalist Interviewed in Belgrade

AU030946 Pristina RILINDJA in Albanian 26 Feb 88 p 2

[A. Spahiu, F. Musliu report: "What Journalists Say"]

[Excerpts] The proceedings of this conference are being followed by 420 journalists, including 210 from our country and as many from abroad. This itself testifies to great interest among the public. [passage omitted]

Because of this interest, we made efforts to talk directly to some of these journalists to find out what they are reporting and how they themselves assess the first part of the conference. [passage omitted]

Napoleon Roshi (Tirana BASHKIMI): I am very optimistic of the success of this conference. The mere fact that it is taking place and the desire of the participants to talk shows that the climate of relations and cooperation among the Balkan countries will change, especially when one realizes how strongly we are tied and interrelated among ourselves. However, we must not hurry or start by offering too many different suggestions. We must wait

for the first results of this meeting. There is an extremely high level of interest among the Albanian public in the results of this gathering. [passage omitted]

Joint Meeting With Iraqi Committee Begins

Committee Discusses Trade

JN011522 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1330 GMT 1 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 1 Mar (INA)—The meetings of the joint Iraqi-SFRY Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, which will last for 2 days, began here today. The Iraqi delegation to the meetings is headed by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister; while the SFRY delegation is headed by Janez Zemljaric, FEC vice president and president of the FEC Planning and Current Economic and Social Policy Commission.

During its meetings, the committee will discuss ways to develop trade exchange and activate bilateral economic, technical, and scientific cooperation.

Mikulic Receives Iraqi Official

AU021954 Belgrade Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Branko Mikulic, president of the FEC, received in the Palace of the Federation Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, who is heading a delegation of his country at the talks of the mixed Yugoslav-Iraqi Committee for Economic, Scientific-Technical, and Cultural Cooperation.

Mikulic and Salih concluded that relations between the two countries are successfully developing and that the two countries are cooperating well within the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations.

As was stated, great possibilities exist for raising the level of trade and for developing higher forms of economic relations. They also concluded that the Iraq-Iran war should end as soon as possible in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and the documents adopted at the meetings of nonaligned countries.

INA Reports Meeting

JN021926 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1338 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Belrade, 2 Mar (INA)—Branko Mikulic, president of the SFRY FEC, received here today Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraqi minister of trade.

The Iraqi minister also met with Budimir Loncar, SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs.

The trade minister told an INA correspondent in Belgrade that Mikulic and Loncar reiterated Yugoslavia's standing call to end the Iraq-Iran war through peaceful means and its support for UN Security Council Resolution 598.

He said he explained Iraq's stand peaceful initaitives, and acceptance of the UN Security Council resolution. He also explained the Iranian regime's insistence on continuing its aggression against Iraq and its bombardment of Baghdad, Basra, and other Iraqi cities with missiles and long-range artillery.

He added that during the two meetings bilateral economic relations and the importance of promoting them in the interest of the two friendly countries were reviewed.

Meanwhile, minutes for joint cooperation between the two countries were signed in Belgrade this morning. It was signed by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and head of the Iraqi side of the Joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation; and by Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the FEC and head of the Yugoslav side to the committee.

The minutes stipulate specifying the means to consolidate and diversify trade, in addition to economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Iraq and Yugoslavia.

The Iraqi trade minister arrived in Belgrade last Sunday on a 3-day working visit to Yugoslavia.

Trade Talks Conclude

LD022332 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1735 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—Talks on economic and financial cooperation between Yugoslavia and Iraq in 1988 were successfully concluded in Belgrade today. They were conducted by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, cochairman of the Iraqi-Yugoslav Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation and Iraqi Minister of Trade and Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the FEC. The two sides assessed that the agreements reached in these talks constitute an important basis for further promoting and developing long-term forms of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries. Agreement was also reached on activities designed to overcome the individual difficulties confronted by organizations of both countries in economic, trade, and financial cooperation.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih also had talks with Nenad Krekic, member of the FEC and federal secretary for foreign trade, on furthering trade relations between the two countries.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Arrives 2 March

LD021203 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1140 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—Peruvian Foreign Minister Allan Wagner Tizon today arrived in Belgrade on a 3-day official and friendly visit to Yugoslavia.

With his host, Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar, who met Tizon at Belgrade Airport, the Peruvian foreign minister will discuss bilateral relations and international topics of interest to the two countries. World economic problems and the nonaligned countries' future activities are expected to be considered with particular attention.

Yugoslav-Peruvian ministerial dialogue opens this afternoon and will continue tomorrow as well. Allan Wagner Tizon is expected to be received by Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidency, and Branko Mikulic, president of the FEC.

Loncar Meets Minister

LD022336 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1942 GMT 2 Mar 88

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Mar (TANJUG)—The development of relations between Yugoslavia and Peru, current international events, and the activity of the Nonaligned Movement were the topics of this evening's 2 and 1/2 hour talks between Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, and his guest, Peruvian Foreign Minister Allan Wagner Tizon, who is on a friendly official visit to Yugoslavia.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the fact that economic cooperation between Yugoslavia and Peru is entering a new, more meaningful phase of development. It was stressed that Peru is the first country of Latin America in which Yugoslav work organizations (Energoprojekt and others) are involved in investment construction. Satisfaction was expressed on both sides at the fact that Energoprojekt, after two successfully completed phases of the Peruvian economy's chief irrigation project, Chira-Piura, has begun work on the third phase of this project, the value of which is estimated at more than $120 million. The realization of the previous two phases cost approximately $400 million. The successful work of Energoprojekt opens up room for the participation of other Yugoslav work organizations in the construction of investment projects in Peru as well, Loncar and Wagner Tizon stressed.

The two sides stressed the importance of closer cooperation in the expansion of trade based on compensation deals. Areas of cooperation were identified such as water engineering, mining, shipbuilding, the pharmaceutical and chemical industry, electricity, the rolling stock industry, the timber industry, agribusiness and the agricultural complex, and others in which Yugoslavia and Peru see broad scope for strengthening mutual cooperation. The Yugoslav side also expressed interest in importing more goods from Peru, chiefly raw materials such as iron ore, lead, zinc, copper, fish meal and others. The two sides expressed readiness for the overall volume of economic cooperation in the future to be more balanced, in view of the fact that the Yugoslav side has until now had a deficit in trade.

Loncar and Wagner Tizon noted the need for the two countries to develop scientific-technical, cultural-educational and information cooperation. In this connection, it was stated that the preparations for a session, as soon as possible, of the mixed committee for economic cooperation should also be speeded up.

Considering the current situation in international relations, Loncar and Wagner Tizon noted the current positive trends in the world in the light of recent agreements between the big powers. It was stressed that all countries and other international subjects should participate in these positive processes and in the consideration of global questions—international economic issues, the problems of debts, disarmament, the problem of crisis flahpoints, the position of the developing countries—and make their contribution to this.

Loncar and Wagner Tizon stressed the need for the action-oriented operation of the Nonaligned Movement in the treatment of the vital problems of today in an effective and modern way that will be suited to contemporary international developments and changes in the world. In this framework there was also discussion about the forthcoming activities of the Nonaligned Movement.

Particular stress in this evening's talks was placed on the problem of debts, given that both countries are confronted with these problems and in view of the fact that Peru belongs to the most indebted continent in the world.

The two sides stated that Peru is particularly involved in solving this problem on a regional (Cartagena group) and on a global level, as well as within the framework of the activities of the Nonaligned Movement.

The two ministers repeated that Yugoslavia and Peru have identical or largely similar views on the most topical international questions, as well as on actions and the activity of the Nonaligned Movement. The talks between Loncar and Wagner Tizon continue tomorrow.